

Moscow to resist pressure at Madrid

MADRID (R) — Igor Andropov, son of Soviet leader Yuri Andropov, said here Tuesday the Soviet Union was not prepared to reach agreement at any price at the Madrid security conference. Talking to Reuters during a break in the work of the review conference of the Helsinki European Security and Cooperation (CSCE) accords, Mr. Andropov made clear the Kremlin was determined to resist Western pressure. He referred directly to proposals tabled by the Western states at the 35-nation meeting which call for greater respect for human rights, including free trade unions, in the Soviet bloc.

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'Egypt, Sudan will not plot against any Arab state'

CAIRO (R) — Egypt and Sudan would not cooperate with any foreign country against another Arab state, Egyptian presidential adviser Osama Baz was quoted Tuesday as saying. Dr. Baz, who is accompanying President Hosni Mubarak on a visit to Khartoum, was apparently referring to tension on Sudan's border with Libya. The U.S. has sent four Advanced Warning And Control Systems (AWACS) aircraft to Egypt to check intelligence reports of Libyan troop concentration in the area. The official Middle East News Agency, in a report from Khartoum, quoted Dr. Baz as saying: "It is impossible for Egypt and Sudan would ever cooperate with a foreign power against an Arab state..."

Mubarak arrives for Khartoum talks

KHARTOUM (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak arrived in Khartoum Tuesday for talks with President Jafar Numeiri of Sudan. The Sudanese People's Assembly Monday night denounced "the continuous conspiracies" of Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi against Sudan and unanimously approved a draft resolution calling on the United Nations to end Libyan threats and provocations, the Sudanese news agency reported from Khartoum.

Fahd opens biggest desalination system

RIYADH (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia Tuesday inaugurated the world's biggest desalination system that pumps drinking water from the Gulf halfway across the desert kingdom. The king, accompanied by members of the royal family and cabinet ministers, performed the opening ceremony at the Riyadh end of the twin 60-inch pipelines that snake some 470 kilometres across Saudi Arabia from Jubail. The pipeline, conceived in the days of seemingly unlimited oil revenues in the mid-1970s, will supply the rapidly growing needs of the capital of about one million people.

3 crewmen killed as trawler sinks

LONDON (R) — A French trawler sank in the English Channel Tuesday and three crewmen trapped in the hull were feared drowned. Three of the six crew were rescued as the trawler Petit Forand sank in heavy seas 25 miles off England's south coast. British coastguards said. The bow of the trawler remained above water for about two hours and rescue workers, hoping the three men who had been below decks might be alive in an air pocket, struggled to keep the vessel afloat.

S. Africa says 129 rebels killed

WINDHOEK, Namibia (South West Africa) (R) — South African troops have killed 129 insurgents in repulsing renewed attacks by black nationalist guerrillas in the north of Namibia (South West Africa) in the past few days, a military spokesman said Tuesday. He said two South Africans had died during the operations. The spokesman said 109 of the guerrillas killed had been identified as members of a special force based near the southern Angolan town of Lubango.

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PNC rejects Reagan plan as basis for settlement

ALGIERS (R) — The Palestinian parliament in exile Tuesday rejected President Reagan's Middle East peace plan as a permanent solution to the Palestinian problem and endorsed an Arab League plan instead.

The wording of the resolution on the U.S. plan appeared to reflect a compromise between Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's wish not to reject it outright and the hostility of hardliners towards the proposals.

The decisions were contained in a political resolution agreed by the 384-strong Palestine National Council (PNC) which has been holding a policy meeting in Algiers for the last nine days.

The PNC agreed to endorse the Arab League plan that has been widely interpreted as recognising Israel's existence within its pre-1967 borders in return for a Palestinian state in Gaza and the West Bank.

Tuesday's resolution affirmed the PNC's "refusal to consider the Reagan plan as a sound basis for a permanent solution" in the Middle East.

The plan calls for "Palestinian homeland in association with Jordan in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip."

The resolution, which was opposed by the small pro-Syrian Palestinian Liberation Front, noted that the Reagan plan failed "in its orientation and contents" to meet Palestinian aspirations to statehood under the PLO's leadership.

Council sources said PLO leaders had been arguing right up until Tuesday's resolution about the wording of its decision on the U.S. plan.

But the PNC resolution eventually endorsed the Fex plan as "a minimum basis" which it decided "should be completed with military action" — another move seen as a last-minute compromise between Mr. Arafat's moderate Fatch movement, the PLO's backbone, and smaller hardline movements.

On Mr. Arafat's recent contacts with Jordan with a view to discussing a possible confederation, the council, as generally expected, decided that such a confederation would only be possible once an independent Palestinian state was established.

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Syrians launch rescue operations in Lebanon

SOFAR, Lebanon (R) — A battalion of Syrian troops is working to rescue an unknown number of people still trapped in snow drifts on the Beirut-Damascus highway, an officer at the Syrian front line in this mountain town said Tuesday.

Some 50 frozen bodies have been recovered from cars on the highway in four days of blizzards, Lebanon's worst natural disaster for years. About 350 people have been rescued alive.

The officer, blocking a road that was no more than a narrow track through walls of snow, said he had orders that no non-Lebanese should pass and that in any case it was forbidden to photograph or write about Syrian military action.

But he said Syrian troops were digging from both ends of a blocked section of the mountain highway to reach people still buried there, helped in one area by Lebanese rescue teams.

"We're doing three quarters of the work," he said.

The Syrians' ban on foreigners driving into the area under their control extended to soldiers from the multi-national peacekeeping force in Beirut who made several attempts Monday to reach the disaster scene.

A French spokesman said French troops were turned back at the border.

(Continued on page 3)

Deploy missiles or recall forces, Strauss tells U.S.

MUNICH (R) — American forces could withdraw from West Germany if it refused to deploy new U.S. nuclear missiles, right-wing leader Franz-Josef Strauss said Tuesday.

Mr. Strauss told Quick magazine many American politicians had told him a failure by West Germany to station medium-range Pershing missiles following a collapse of disarmament negotiations in Geneva would produce "an incurable rift" in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) alliance.

He said any government which denied its ally necessary armaments would destroy the alliance, and the result would be withdrawal of the Americans.

Mr. Strauss made it clear he was referring to the policies of the opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD) by accusing its candidate for chancellor, Hans-Jochen Vogel, of deception on the missiles issue.

The possibility of more U.S. nuclear rockets being introduced in West Germany has become a major issue in the campaign for general elections on March 6.

Christian Democratic (CDU) Chancellor Helmut Kohl, whose main coalition partner is the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU) of Mr. Strauss, has pledged the deployment of Pershing and Cruise missiles, if by the end of this year the Soviet Union has refused to dismantle similar weapon systems aimed at Western Europe.

Mr. Vogel has indicated that if Moscow removes a significant number of its SS-20 missiles, he would consider more U.S. missiles unnecessary because there were sufficient British and French rockets to counter any remaining Soviet threat.

Mr. Strauss, a former defence and finance minister, has let it be known that in the event of a conservative victory at the polls, he would expect to be named foreign minister.

(Continued on page 3)

Greece, Soviet Union sign 10-year cooperation pact

ATHENS (R) — Greece and the Soviet Union Tuesday signed a 10-year agreement to improve economic and industrial ties at a time of strained relations between Athens and Washington over defence issues.

The agreement was signed after two days of talks between visiting Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Tikhonov and Greece's Socialist Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu and experts from both sides.

Speaking to reporters after a two-hour private talk with Mr. Tikhonov Tuesday, Mr. Papandreu said their discussions had been friendly and fruitful.

"I sincerely believe they open a new chapter, a new page in the relations between our two countries, our two peoples," he said. Mr. Papandreu added that he had accepted an invitation to visit Moscow.

Mr. Tikhonov, the first Soviet prime minister to visit this NATO country, said in a statement to the press.

(Continued on page 3)



SURVIVORS OF MASSACRE: The family of one of the victims who was slaughtered

by tribesmen in the northeastern Indian state of Assam last Friday (A.P. wirephoto). Story on page 8

U.S. rejects Libyan complaint

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United States Tuesday rejected Libya's complaint to the Security Council that American military units had violated Libyan sovereignty and accused Libya of lying.

Libya's U.N. delegate, Ali Abdul Salam Al Treiki, had accused the United States of directing military threats and provocations against his country.

Diplomatic sources said Libya was not seeking a council resolution, and wanted only to air its complaint.

U.S. delegate Jeanne Kirkpatrick rejected what she termed Libya's false and malicious charges and countercharged that Libyan policies threatened the peace.

"Furious that its plans for illegal, violent action were frustrated, the government of Libya comes now to the Security Council

(Continued on page 3)

Reagan offers to protect Israeli borders in return for withdrawal

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan Tuesday offered to guarantee the "security" of Israel's borders with Lebanon and urged Arab countries to negotiate directly with Israel for an overall Middle East peace.

U.S. officials said that among the proposed measures to protect Israel's northern borders could be an expansion of the multi-national force in Beirut to southern Lebanon.

"This administration is prepared to take all necessary measures to guarantee the security of Israel's northern borders in the aftermath of the complete withdrawal of the Israeli army," Mr. Reagan said.

The new initiative comes against a background of slow-moving talks on withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon — although top Israeli and Lebanese officials Tuesday expressed hopes of an early agreement.

Mr. Reagan, who also renewed an offer to meet Soviet leader Yuri Andropov to sign an agreement eliminating all medium-range nuclear missiles, called for action in

the Middle East in a speech to the annual meeting of the American Legion.

Mr. Reagan's call for support for King Hussein's peace efforts came amid uncertainty at the Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers over whether the Palestinians would reject outright Mr. Reagan's Sept. 1 Middle East peace plan.

The plan calls for a Palestinian homeland in association with Jordan in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Palestinian hardliners oppose the plan because it does not provide for a Palestinian state.

Mr. Reagan said Tuesday: "I repeat my call to the Arab World to accept the reality of Israel and the reality that peace and justice are to be gained only through direct negotiation."

King Hussein, who is viewed as the key to progress in the Middle East, "should be sustained in his effort to bring together a joint Jordanian-Palestinian team to negotiate the future of the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem," he said.

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(Continued on page 3)

Bonn appeals to Germans to help combat guerrillas

BONN (R) — West German Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann appealed for public help to combat what he called a big increase in left-wing guerrilla attacks during the past year.

Presenting the 1982 report of the West German counter-intelligence service (BVS), Mr. Zimmermann said the number of terrorist attacks by left-wing extremists had risen from 120 to 184.

He told a press conference the

attacks included 63 bombings, one bank robbery and 120 acts of arson, mostly aimed at U.S. civilian and military targets.

Assaults reached a climax last June when President Reagan visited Bonn. In one night, within several minutes, eight explosions rocked U.S. military targets.

"I appeal for public alertness and for continued help... in the

(Continued on page 3)

EEC endorses agreement to curb Japanese exports

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Economic Community (EEC) Tuesday backed an agreement under which Japan will restrict its exports to the 10-nation bloc in order to reserve a share of the market for European manufacturers, diplomats said.

The agreement, reached in Tokyo 10 days ago by community officials and Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, means Japan will hold back on exports of video tape recorders, colour television sets and tubes, cars and certain trucks.

But community foreign ministers, in accepting the deal, told

their executive commission it had to make a vigorous attempt to open up Japanese markets to European products.

They also insisted that the commission should closely monitor Japan's adherence to the three-year agreement.

Japan had a trade surplus with the community of \$14 billion in each of the past two years.

Commission Vice-President Etienne Davignon, who helped strike the deal, has called it a turning point in Japanese-EEC relations and said it would avert a damaging trade war.

King calls on Britain to exert more efforts for peace in Mideast

LONDON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday called on British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to exert more efforts within the European community to end the Israeli occupation of Lebanon and said that Israel should "withdraw from all Lebanese territories it is occupying and from all occupied Arab territories in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip so that the Palestinian people could exercise their legitimate right to self-determination."

The King, who is on a private visit to London, met Mrs. Thatcher Monday and explained Arab views on achieving just peace and stability in the Middle East. He also emphasised the significance of the dialogue between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) "in boosting the trend towards a just and durable peace in the area."

The King explained to the British prime minister the seriousness of the situation in the area as a result of the "continuous Israeli aggression and the intensification of its settlement policy in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip in order to create new facts accomplishing to obstruct peace efforts and aggravate tension in the whole area."

(Continued on page 3)

Israel, Lebanon hope for early agreement

TEL AVIV (R) — Top Israeli and Lebanese officials Tuesday expressed hopes of an early agreement in negotiations for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said in a speech in occupied Jerusalem: "I can express the hope that the end of the negotiations is not far off."

In the coastal town of Netanya, where Israeli, Lebanese and U.S. diplomats held their 18th negotiating session Tuesday, Lebanon's chief delegate echoed Mr. Shamir's statement.

"I am not an optimistic man by nature, but I allow myself to be optimistic about the possibility of an agreement," said Lebanese delegation chief Antoine Farrar.

Israeli delegation spokesman Yossi Amihud told reporters the negotiators had "achieved important progress and narrowed gaps in significant fields."

The optimistic statements appeared to mark a turning point in the negotiations on Israeli troop withdrawal, security arrangements in South Lebanon and mutual relations.

(Continued on page 3)

Libyan airliner hijack drama drags on at Valletta Airport

VALLETTA (R) — Hijackers holding 161 people aboard a Libyan airliner Tuesday released a young woman, the first person to leave the plane since it landed here on Sunday night.

Eyewitnesses said the blonde woman, who was believed to be a stewardess, left the plane through a side emergency exit and was immediately taken to the airport control tower.

Airport sources said the hijackers had threatened to blow up the plane unless they were allowed to talk to the Moroccan ambassador and given fuel to fly to Morocco.

Maltese Radio reported that the Moroccan government was ready to talk to the hijackers but only if they released the passengers first in Malta.

The radio said the hijackers rejected an offer by Mr. Mintoff to supply food and water if the children aboard the plane were released.

The radio said the young woman who left the plane was a Yugoslav working for Libyan National Airlines and carried a message to Mr. Mintoff asking for water for the children.

It said the Maltese government was in touch with King Hassan of Morocco on the hijacking.

Maltese Radio later reported that the hijackers had also demanded to talk to the American ambassador but said Mr. Mintoff had refused to contact the U.S. embassy unless women and children on the plane were freed.

An American embassy spokesman told Reuters he had heard the broadcast but the embassy had received no official communication.

The spokesman said the senior U.S. diplomat in Malta at present was Charge d'Affaires Thomas

(Continued on page 3)

Stockholm explosion kills 1

STOCKHOLM (R) — At least one woman died and three people were injured Tuesday in an explosion, believed to have been caused by a bomb, at Stockholm's multi-storey tax headquarters, police said.

They said a man had been arrested but could not say whether he had been picked up at the scene of the blast or give details about him.

Ambulances took three people to hospital with minor injuries but police said there might be more victims.

The explosion destroyed rooms on the second and third floors of the 23-storey building, which houses the tax offices of one of the world's most highly taxed countries.

Police said the sky scraper did not appear to be in danger.

(Continued on page 3)

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FEATURES

Agent 007 to survive 2 more adventures in 1983

By Eric Hall
Reuters

LONDON — The screen enemies of secret agent 007 James Bond may never succeed in killing him off, but fierce competition for film production money and dwindling cinema audiences could pose a greater long-term threat.

Despite producers' wary sidelong glances at the growing impact of home-watched television and videotapes, two competing Bond films are due on world cinema screens later this year.

One will star Sean Connery, original portrayer of Ian Fleming's seemingly invincible British agent, and the other, Roger Moore, who played in several Bond epics after Connery's initial enthusiasm faded.

About one billion people are

and the world have seen Bond in action since the first of the series, "Dr. No," appeared in 1962. Subsequent episodes have proved to be goldmines, netting up to \$180 million each.

The new Moore film, "Octopussy," gets its premiere in June and comes from producer Albert Broccoli, whose Eon Productions hold the screen rights to all but two of the Bond novels.

Woodcote Productions' "Never Say Never Again" — the ironic title of the movie starring Connery, who once said he would never play 007 again — will be released about two months later.

Eon Executive Producer Mike Wilson, who is Broccoli's stepson and heir to the Bond empire, is confident "Octopussy" will rake in millions of dollars.

But he admits to being worried about the ultimate effect of falling

audiences as home video recordings and cable television eat into the cinema's business.

"Video and TV are competing markets, not new markets," he told Reuters.

In the U.S., by far the biggest national market, figures show film admission are evening out at around a billion a year.

Last year there were about 75 major movies in the U.S. chasing those billion seat tickets.

But because blockbusters like Steven Spielberg's science fiction movie "E.T." grab a big chunk of the cinema crowds, it makes it much harder for lower-budget movies to turn a profit.

Mr. Wilson said a film with a budget of three to four million dollars needs to sell 10 million tickets just to break even.

In Britain, annual film admissions have almost halved since

1978 to 77 million and a third of the nation's cinemas have closed. In the same period, British video cassette rentals soared from almost nil to around £200 million (\$300 million).

The nature of the U.S. market, geared mainly for teenagers seeking big action films, is forcing filmmakers to gamble on high-budget movies.

"Octopussy" cost well over \$25 million to make and the budget for "Never Say Never Again" is unlikely to be far from that figure, according to film industry sources.

Connery, a Scot with a questioning half smile that attracts women and irritates villains, earned \$50,000 for "Dr. No."

Nine years later, his fee was one million dollars — the sum he got for his last 007 role in "Diamonds Are Forever" in 1971 and gave to

a charity he founded for deprived Scottish children.

Both Connery, 52, and Moore, 54, are getting old for Bond.

Moore has intimated he wants to quit the 007 role soon and sources on the "Octopussy" set said Mr. Broccoli already had a shortlist of young hopefuls to be the next Bond.

Bond in "Never Say Never Again" is an older man. "I have not necessarily tried to play him as an older man," Connery explained, "but I too am getting older, like everyone else."

The two latest films take the 007 tally to 15, though Fleming wrote only 14 Bond novels. But Mr. Wilson noted there were enough Fleming short stories about the agent to keep him on screen as long as the audiences hold out.

Rio's carnival is just an illusion

By Moyra Ashford
Reuters

RIO DE JANEIRO — Rio's annual carnival lays claim to being the greatest show on earth, and those who take part in it say dancing in the procession is the supreme natural "high."

But as Rio picks up the pieces after the climax of this year's event, the dancers may reflect that the experience was a little glamorous and a lot more hard work than it appeared.

Like the theatre, the final result was a mixture of sweat, discipline, months of planning and a good dose of improvisation.

It was also a test of endurance — try sambaing over one kilometre down the parade avenue under a 40 degrees centigrade midday sun with a 3.5 kilogram hat on your head and blisters on your feet.

The 18-hour parade of 30,000

to 40,000 hip-snapping dancers is the high spot of the four-day carnival. Not just a sea of swaying plumes, sequins and banners, it is a pageant where each costume represents a specific theme, evoked by the words of the samba.

A samba dancer's day may start before dawn to reach the assembly point the specified 2-1/2 hours in advance.

Waiting is hot and uncomfortable. The dawn clouds disperse, the sun glares down, there is no shade around. After five minutes' practice samba you are sweating and thirsty, but if you drink too much, relieving yourself is next to impossible in full carnival regalia.

Nobody knows how much it all costs. Costumes start at around \$75, but from there on the sky is the limit. A show-piece costume, for which the dancer may have saved for months, can include sequins, beans, ostrich feathers

and even ermine. For each group in turn, and always late, the big moment arrives.

Should anyone forget himself and think that samba is just for fun, he is brought up sharp and reminded that there is a competition to be won and judges sitting up there in the grandstands, awarding points for every aspect of the parade.

But for the tourist most of this goes unnoticed. The glitter and joy glimpsed from the grandstands has its warts and weariness on the street level. Not all the women are beautiful, many are old and fat with work-worn faces.

Many of the spangled princes have bumpy legs, and close up you can see some sequins are really bottle tops, some silk is industrial plastic.

But that is what carnival is about — illusion.

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HOME NEWS

Seminar recommends new building methods

AMMAN (Petra) — The seminar on expansive clay soil, organised by the Building Research Centre (BRC) of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) in cooperation with the British Building Research Establishment (BRE), has recommended new methods of design for buildings constructed on clay soil. It has also suggested new ways of protecting existing buildings constructed on clay soil from cracking and generally deteriorating. To these ends a new design manual outlining these specialist technical instructions will be published soon.

The seminar, which concluded its meetings here Tuesday, aimed to neutralise the damage being

done to low-rise buildings built on expansive clay soil, by, among other things, improving the foundations of buildings constructed on this type of earth. The study, which took the BRC and BRE four years to complete, concentrated on the Amman and Irbid areas, and will continue for two more years during which time foundations designs will be drawn up. Observation will also continue of the clay soil on which the study was based to gather more data.

When all the research is complete, a design manual for public institutions and engineering firms in Jordan and the Arab World will also be issued.



A press conference takes place Tuesday at the Royal Scientific Society after the conclusion of the seminar on the problems of building on clay soil (Petra photo)

Abu Nowar stresses Jordan's capacity to host conferences

AMMAN (Petra) — Tourism and Antiquities Minister Ma'an Abu Nowar said Tuesday that Jordan now has the capacity to host any international conference at any level.

The increase in hotel space, the expansion of telephone, cable and telex services, the new Queen Alia International Airport due to open imminently coupled with the fact that Jordan has the competent staff capable of organising events of such magnitude means that we are now in a position to compete for such conferences, the minister said.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Mr. Abu Nowar went on to say that there

are seven five-star hotels in Jordan containing 1,546 rooms and 2,483 beds and some 15 four-star hotels containing 1,407 rooms and 2,768 beds.

The Royal Cultural Centre is now capable of rendering summit and ministerial conference services and, with the opening of the new airport, Jordan will be able to receive more airliners in less time and offer better facilities and services, Mr. Abu Nowar said.

The minister added that in view of its good climate, geographical location, and cultural and historic sites, Jordan will in the future provide a genial location for international conferences.



Mr. Ma'an Abu Nowar

Royal decree approves JD 10m loan for Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — A royal decree was issued Tuesday approving a loan agreement concluded between the Jordanian government and the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development to finance the fifth electricity plant to be built in the country.

According to the agreement, the fund will loan the government JD 10 million to be repaid in 40 installments beginning in Oct.

1988 and ending in April 2008. The project, which is expected to be completed in mid 1986, aims to construct a thermal electric power station, operating on fuel oil near the city of Aqaba, which will have two generators both with a capacity of 130 megawatts.

The project also includes the construction of a 400-kilovolt transmission line from Aqaba to Amman.

Swedes meet Ibrahim

AMMAN (Petra) — Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Hassan Ibrahim discussed with the Swedish parliamentary delegation, which arrived in Amman Tuesday, the latest developments in the Middle East political process.

Mr. Ibrahim briefed the delegation on Israel's practices in the occupied Arab territories and its arbitrary measures aimed at the eviction of Arab residents

Swiss experts to study phosphates manufacture

AMMAN (Petra) — A Swiss economic delegation agreed, after discussion with Industry and Trade Ministry Under-Secretary Mohammad Saleh Al Hourani Tuesday, to send a Swiss technical team to study the manufacturing process of Jordanian phosphates in preparation for the export of this commodity to Switzerland.

The decision came after joint discussions between the two parties over the possibility of: Swiss technical expertise being used to help Jordan in the industrial and service sectors; the establishment of joint Jordanian-Swiss companies, and the marketing of phosphates in western Europe through the Swiss market.

Mr. Hourani briefed the delegation on current economic developments in Jordan, focussing particularly on projects included in the current five-year development plan. After the meeting was interviewed by a cor-

respondent from the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, and said that, although economic and trade relations between the two countries are not that strong at present, the visit of the Swiss team to Jordan would hopefully lead to an enhancement of these relations.

Mr. Hourani also hoped that Jordan would participate in the Swiss National Fair which will be held in Lausanne in September as a way of introducing Jordanian products to the Swiss market.

The delegation also Tuesday visited the Jordanian Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC) and discussed with its officials the prospect of Swiss technical firms preparing studies to develop phosphate production in Jordan. The delegation was also told of the company's present activities and its future plant expansion.

The Swiss delegation also visited the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) and was briefed by officials on the cement industry and its future prospects in Jordan. The trade delegation also discussed the possibility of cooperation between the JCFC and specialist Swiss companies.

The Swiss team's itinerary also included a visit to the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) and was briefed in particular on JEA purchases of Swiss equipment. They were told however that the instability of the Swiss franc, the lack of easy-term loans and the rise in interest rates made future purchases at the moment unlikely.



Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Kamel Al Sharif Tuesday addresses the delegation of American mayors currently on a visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

Sharif tells U.S. mayors of Israeli occupation

AMMAN (Petra) — Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Kamel Al Sharif received Tuesday the delegation of American mayors currently visiting Jordan.

Mr. Sharif explained to the delegation that the holy city of Jerusalem, which has always been a city of peace for the people of all faiths, has become under Israeli occupation a city of tension and fanaticism.

"It is the duty of every thinker who believes in human values to help to rescue the holy city so that it can once again resume its ancient role as a city of faith and peace," Mr. Sharif said.

Mr. Sharif asked the delegation to urge their government to use its influence to temper the excesses of Zionist aggressors, and help reach a just and honourable solution to the problem.

JCFC gets \$45m loan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Bank Investment Corporation, which is the London-based subsidiary of Amman's Arab Bank, is arranging and underwriting a \$45 million loan to the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC), the Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) said in its latest edition.

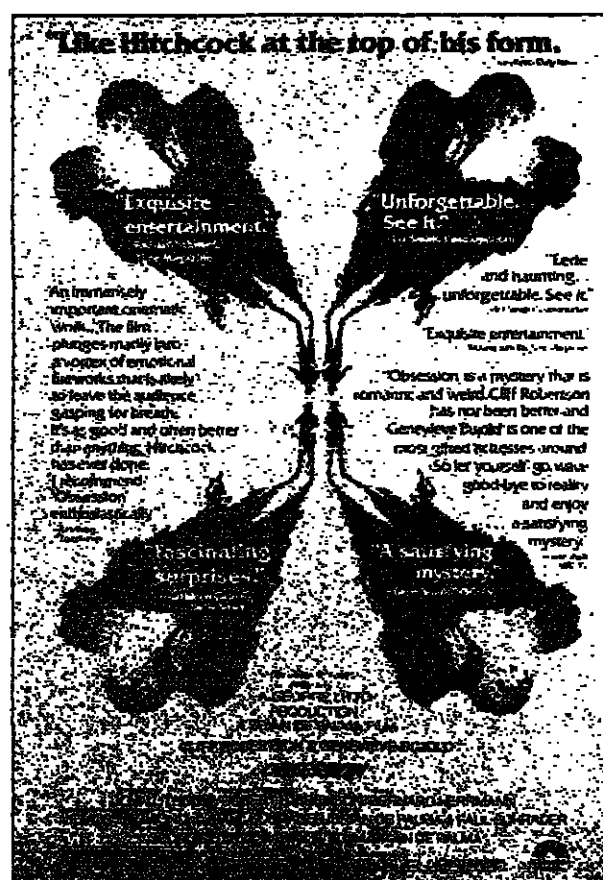
Arab Bank Deputy General Manager Munzer Fahum has said that the loan makes up the foreign currency element of the \$85 million loan that the JCFC has been seeking.

Library issues fair invitations

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan library has invited various scientific academies and societies in the Arab World to take part in the fair it will be organising at the library next May.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has recently approved the use of the library as a centre for storing its documents.

TODAY at THE RAINBOW CINEMA



OBSESSION

Starring: Cliff Robertson
Genevieve Bujold

3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

NOTICE OF LOSS

Mr. Minder Pritu has lost his Jordanian residence permit No. 12/10/46. Will the finder please inform the owner or forward the document to Mr. Minder Pritu c/o Nabresco, P.O. Box 490, Aqaba - Jordan.

NOTICE OF LOSS

Mr. Bhagwan Dass has lost his Jordanian residence permit No. 48/33/6. Will the finder please inform the owner or forward the document to Mr. Bhagwan Dass c/o Nabresco, P.O. Box 490, Aqaba - Jordan.

Continued from page 1

Hijack drama drags on

Price. He said it was unclear what the hijackers might want to talk to the United States about.

The radio said Mr. Mintoff had talked to a second woman, a Maltese stewardess on board the plane, and told her that if she and the other women and children were freed food would be provided for those left on board.

But he said that at the moment the hijackers could not be given fuel under any circumstances because no neighbouring state had yet agreed to accept them, the radio added.

A spokesman for the Moroccan embassy in Tripoli told Reuters by telephone that the embassy had no responsibility for Malta.

And a Moroccan embassy spokesman in Rome said it had not been decided whether the ambassador to Italy would go to Malta.

Meanwhile the fear and misery went on for the crew and passengers, including 30 children, as they sat behind drawn blinds in the Boeing 727.

Airport sources said no food had been delivered to the plane since it landed and sanitary conditions were bound to be terrible.

Airport sources said the pilot of the plane told the control tower at one stage: "They say that there are armed men coming too near the plane. If they come any nearer they will explode the plane."

The Maltese government is refusing to refuel the aircraft unless the hostages are released. At the

airport, vehicles could be seen blocking the runway.

Air Malta staff said flights were due in from Rome and Tripoli but they could not say if the Moroccan ambassador would be aboard. Libyan airlines officials at the airport continued to refuse all comment.

No confirmation was available of local reports that a group of Libyan officials arrived from Tripoli during the night.

Italian diplomats said they believed one Italian was aboard the plane. They declined to name him but in Rome the national news agency ANSA said he was Giuseppe Gandolfi, director of foreign trade for the aircraft company Cie Siai Marchetti.

While the drama went on, other flights continued to land and take off at Luqa Airport.

Airport sources said the control tower told the hijackers "we have a message from Morocco which we will not transmit to you unless the women and children are released."

The captain then replied that the hijackers' position had not changed.

The control tower responded: "Please yourself. Our message remains the same."

In another exchange the flight engineer said on behalf of the hijackers: "If you give us enough fuel to go to Morocco we will release all passengers and the aircraft in Morocco."

U.S. rejects Libyan complaint

with lying complaints against the United States," she said in a letter to Oleg Troyanovsky, the council's Soviet president.

"In fact, the United States committed none of the acts charged by the government of Libya," she said.

The United States has the power of veto in the 15-nation council and could kill any resolution of which it disapproved.

Opening the debate Tuesday, Mr. Treiki said there had been an established policy of American threats against Libya since the "great September revolution" that brought Col. Muammar Qadhafi to power.

Before that, he said, Libya was an aggressive military base for the United States and American monopolies controlled the country's economy, especially oil.

Terming the United States the leader of international terrorism, Mr. Treiki said that an aggressive policy against Libya was growing daily. He repeated charges that the U.S. Sixth Fleet violated Libyan territorial waters and Libyan airspace.

In her letter, Mrs. Kirkpatrick said the United States sent no offensive aircraft into the region and violated no Libyan airspace.

Moscow to resist pressure

The West was mistaken in believing that the Soviet Union would accept these proposals in exchange for a commitment from the conference to convene new all-European arms talks, he said. "I do not think that we should pay such an extreme price for this conference," he said in fluent English.

Mr. Andropov, a career diplomat, is the fourth-ranking Soviet delegate at the 28-month-old Madrid conference.

He said the West's view that the Soviet Union had most to gain from convening new arms talks was questionable. "We are of course interested, but not at all costs," he said.

The Madrid conference has entered a negotiating stage aimed at reaching consensus on a final document, with discussion over the Western proposals the main stumbling block.

Israel, Lebanon hope for agreement

Mr. Shamir said: "There are still a number of obstacles before us. There are still gaps regarding very vital issues."

"But we have the feeling that with an additional effort...we will in the near future succeed in overcoming all the difficulties and reach an agreement on all the issues."

In the Netanyahu talks the three sides held a 45-minute plenary session before breaking up into sub-committees to discuss the three main areas of concern.

Sources in the Lebanese delegation said the committee on mutual relations had gone as far as possible without referring to higher authorities for guidance.

But in the security committee, Beirut was reported still adamant in its opposition to Israeli-manned warning stations or observation posts in South Lebanon.

Syrians launch rescue operations

the front line here. U.S. and Italian convoys spent much of Monday at the Lebanese Defence Ministry on the outskirts of Beirut while officers tried to negotiate a way through.

The Syrians agreed to allow the U.S. Marines to send in helicopters, and two flew to the mountains Tuesday morning to pick up four men rescued by Syrian troops.

A U.S. Marine spokesman said the men had apparently been sheltering in a snow dugout. They were suffering from exposure and one appeared to have frost-bitten feet.

Marine Sergeant Christopher

Grey, who took part in the operation, said there were cars and trucks buried in the snow. "We were walking on the tops of cars," he said.

The blizzards died down Tuesday but winds whipped up snow clouds, cutting visibility in places to a few metres.

The Syrian government has not explained why it is refusing to allow the multinational force or any other foreigners into the area.

But the most obvious reason is that the disaster zone is only a few kilometres from the Syrians' line with the Israeli army.

On the edge of Sofar, the snow has piled up more than a metre

deep on the highway. The highway has been closed for months and is almost certainly mined. Coils of barbed wire are hidden under the snow.

A few hundred metres to the west, past sand barricades doubled in height by snow, Israeli soldiers keep watch through binoculars from the top of an apartment block.

The slow-clogged highway from Sofar to the mountain town of Aley, seven kilometres back towards Beirut, is constantly patrolled by Israeli armoured troop carriers ploughing through the slush. Snow-caked Israeli tanks stand guard by the side of the road.

Jordan Times

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Oil price cuts

ONE has to hand it to the United States for engineering the falling price of oil, the global glut and, of course, its own and Western economic recession.

Oil prices are falling and Britain and Nigeria have already announced their own rebates. Others will follow suit, and some will be hurt deeply because of their total dependence on oil revenues to pay for imports. Some will not care much, specially those in the Gulf. They will not collapse because of a ten per cent drop in prices. They have small populations, huge surpluses and plenty of reserves.

In fact, the Arab producers raised their production in the past unwillingly in order to prevent a worldwide crisis brought about by a reduction in Iranian and Iraqi output because of the war that is going on between them. And when Syria, in support of Iran, prohibited the pumping of Iraqi oil through its Mediterranean pipeline, the situation worsened.

Indeed, Saudi Arabia and its Gulf partners had cautioned long and loud against any steep rises in prices and warned that if

the prices rise fast, the world will find other and cheaper alternatives. This is happening now. Coal is already cheaper to use. The North Sea, Mexican and Alaskan oil came on stream when prices became attractive. Nuclear and solar energies are being produced on an ever-increasing scale and the world has learned to conserve power. Instead of raising the office temperature, the staff put on jumpers or kept their jackets on. So power was saved. Multiply this saving by millions of offices and homes worldwide and the figures speak for themselves in terms of a glut.

So the American recession has done its job. It has created over 12 million unemployed and returned to the soup kitchens as well as forcing the oil producers to cut their prices, the first time in decades.

But will OPEC learn its lesson and reconsider its implications? This is doubtful. The organisation has been politicised beyond redemption.

-- Arab News, Jeddah

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: PNC must issue unambiguous statements of policy.

One would expect the resolutions which will be issued by the Palestine National Council (PNC) to possess a clarity of meaning making them beyond no room for ambivalence. Crucial resolutions are usually and indeed need to be phrased in a precise and specific way and should not be judged.

For instance, the resolutions which refer to the future relationship between Jordan and the Palestinians and the resolutions which empower the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to deal with Middle East peace initiatives

cannot afford to be drafted with generalities. So much so that we would rather see clear, unambiguous resolutions issued by a majority of the PNC than woolly statements concocted for the sake of consensus.

The delicate phase which the Palestinian issue is passing through and the big challenges facing it dictate the need for a clear policy to facilitate the freeing of the occupied territories and its Arab residents.

Al Dustour: PLO must not shut door on dialogue with U.S.

Observers who have followed the meetings of the PNC and its discussions can not but admire the democratic spirit of this dialogue. We believe that eagerness to preserve Palestinian national unity and the independence of the Palestinian decision-making process are the two factors which allowed this spirit to prevail, and enabled the PNC to make an objective analysis of the Arab and international situations as they affect the peace process.

The mere convening of the PNC was an achievement in itself, which showed that Israel has been unsuccessful in its attempt to destroy the PLO's infrastructure, and its sense of national unity. On the strength of these facts, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat asserted the right of the PLO to participate in the search for a political solution

based on right and justice. With reference to the Reagan plan, Mr. Arafat said that this was insufficient thereby sharing the views of the Arabs who said the plan had positive elements, and those others who emphasised its negative aspects.

Since the United States and Israel enjoy a special relationship, and since the United States has a desire to freeze new Israeli settlements and to effect an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, the PLO should keep the political door open for dialogue with Washington. Those who believe that this approach is useless have miscalculated for the U.S. will not fail to carry out its past promises as this would reflect on the credibility of the United States in the Arab world.

Sawt Al Shaab: Hussein seeks to put more pressure on Israel

His Majesty King Hussein's talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Monday concluded a new phase in Arab attempts, headed by Jordan, to explain their position and to achieve a just peace and durable stability in the Middle East.

In his talks with the Romanian, Yugoslav and British leaders, the King explained the danger of maintaining the status quo in the region. Instead there must be an effective international attempt to put an end to Israel's aggressive and expansionist policies which have already led to the further deterioration in the Middle East situation and could easily push the world to the brink of international confrontation. Israel's continuing settlement policy

in the occupied territories is closing the door on a peaceful solution to the Palestinian issue, while its army is occupying most of Lebanon and is trying to expand its sphere of influence in this part of the Arab world. Israel is also seeking to undermine every peace initiative instead seeking an Arab capitulation on its terms of ignoring the rights of the Palestinian people.

This is why King Hussein is asking the world, and the European Economic Community in particular, to make more efforts to put an end to Israel's practices which threaten the cause of peace in the Middle East.

African leaders try to find a way out of crisis

Is OAU worth saving?

By Andrew Hill
 Reuter

NAIROBI — African leaders must decide in the coming weeks whether the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), in disarray for the past year, is worth saving or a thing of the past. Like the colonial rule it was set up to end. The challenge was put out last week by 12 African leaders here trying to find a way out of the crisis caused by the OAU's double and unprecedented failure in Libya last year to hold its annual summit.

Attempts to hold the summit collapsed because of disputes first over the representation of the Polisario Western Saharan independence movement, then over the government of Chad. After day-long talks the committee recommended switching the venue of the ill-starred 19th summit from Libya, heavily involved in both disputes, to more neutral ground at OAU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, some time in May or June.

It appealed to all OAU member states to attend "without preconditions" after Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, the current OAU chairman told them: "United we shall remain strong. Divided we shall be destroyed." But Morocco has described the "no preconditions" decision as ambiguous and misleading.

Informed sources said the Moroccans clearly believed it meant rescinding an unwritten agreement that the Polisario, which is fighting Morocco for control of the Western Sahara, would stay away from the summit.

President Moi's plea for unity echoed the view expressed privately by many officials that a third failure to hold the summit would sound the death knell of the OAU, the continent's sole forum for political cooperation and the only body that can speak to the rest of the world on Africa's behalf.

The organisation is due to celebrate its 20th anniversary this year but no 20th celebration summit can be held until the 19th

is properly convened. African diplomats believe the dispute over the Western Sahara is the key to the 19th summit's failure or success. The issue has dogged OAU business since Morocco began administering the territory in 1976. It brought OAU work to a standstill when at an OAU budgetary meeting last February the Polisario became the OAU's 51st member. It had gained diplomatic recognition from 26 member states, mostly progressive, and OAU Secretary-General Edem Kodjo said under the OAU's founding charter this was enough to qualify for admission.

Morocco and its supporters said the Polisario's self-styled Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) was not an independent, sovereign state by any definition of international law and could not qualify for membership. Morocco and 18 other states walked out in protest and opponents of the SADR's membership again walked out of the first attempt to stage the summit in August, leaving it inquorate. The Com-

mittee's appeal to all member states to attend a third attempt to hold the summit apparently includes the SADR of the committee members — Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Congo, Angola, Mozambique, Mali, Lesotho, Zambia, Ethiopia and Libya — all but Kenya and Nigeria support the SADR.

Polisario spokesmen were adamant they would attend a summit session in Addis Ababa, saying that since the OAU had set up the committee to find a way out of the crisis, any state which defied its recommendations would be held responsible for a breakdown. Ibrahim Hakim, self-styled foreign minister of the SADR, said it would not repeat its decision after the first collapse of the summit to stay away "voluntarily and temporarily".

"There will be no more compromises," he said after the committee issued its recommendation. "We shall take part in all future OAU meetings."

The SADR's abstention from the second attempt to hold the summit in November seemed initially to have worked. But then Libya and its allies opposed the seating of any representative of the Chadian government of Hissene Habre, whose rebels had oust-

ed Libya's ally, Goukouni Oueddei, in June.

African diplomats believe a future attempted summit may run into trouble over Chad but that it should prove a less contentious issue than before. It was impossible for Libya to allow President Habre to take a seat at the Tripoli meeting because his rebels killed more than 1,000 Libyan troops who fought on Goukouni Oueddei's side in the civil war that led to his overthrow, the diplomats said.

With the venue switched to Ethiopia, Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi would be spared that embarrassment, while moderate states could argue there could be no opposition to President Habre since he is firmly in control of the country, they said. They expected no decision on when to hold the summit until after the Non-aligned heads of state session in New Delhi next month, where African leaders can discuss informally whether there is enough common ground for a third summit attempt.

With independence for Namibia (South West Africa), the last major remnant of colonial rule on the continent, apparently in the offing, the OAU would like to display unity in its anniversary celebrations.

Let Reagan pull the trigger

By Salim T. Abdo

My friend the diplomat from the Eastern bloc looked amused when I tried to explain to him why delegates to the Palestine National Council (PNC), then in the middle of their Algiers debate on PLO strategy after Beirut, had to consider the land under occupation as their top priority. His reaction to my contention on the usefulness of the Reagan plan for an Arab-Israeli settlement was also interesting. I had argued that the Arabs could fight and win if they chose but that it seems they do not want to, and hence their wide interest in all peace plans, including the insufficient Reagan initiative.

Not long before, I had heard a Western diplomat tell me that, with the Israeli technological edge and their superior arsenal of American weaponry, the Arabs simply had no chance of an equal fight -- and that peace is better for the Jordanians and Palestinians, anyway.

In the middle of these diplomatic encounters, a senior Arab official and I had an argument on whether the Arabs could, in theory at least, assemble an army of a million volunteers and march it towards Palestine in a massive bid to liberate the land. Citing the example of thousands of Iranian schoolboys and Revolutionary Guards thrown into

battle with Iraq, and lack of motivation on the part of Arab masses to do anything for their regimes or others, he nearly convinced me that the Arabs could not do it.

The Israelis — under Begin and men like Sharon, Shamir, and now Arens — seem to live in a different world altogether, themselves looking to pick a fight with the Arabs and even with their benefactors and guardians in Washington.

Come to think of it, to borrow the words of Jordan Times columnist Ibrahim Abu Nah, the Arabs are left with some options among which only one could work for several years to come. And that is to go along with what U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is offering: Simple proposals, mediocre promises and high hopes for a Middle East settlement.

This supposition may indicate that the best scene of the Middle East today could only be spotted on an American black and white screen: There is going to be either peace or war; for the former you need Mr. Reagan's help, and none of it would lead you to the latter. It is this perception that is dividing the Arabs without keeping the Israelis at bay.

The fact of the matter remains that the whole picture is still unclear, even to the movie experts in Washington. For how can you convince a siz-

eable part of the Arab World to believe that:

— Palestine is the legal property of the Jews?

— Israel's reality should be accepted through the force of arms?

— The PLO is not the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and they cannot have the right to self-determination and to setting up an independent state on the West Bank and Gaza?

— The United States is sincere in its attempts to find a just and honourable settlement when it has been directly responsible for the continued occupation of Palestinian territories and for the denial of Palestinian rights?

— Washington cannot get the Israelis to withdraw from Lebanon when it had a tacit agreement with them on the goals of the June invasion up to Beirut?

— The U.S. administration propagated its president's proposals only after the PLO was dealt a heavy blow and its fighters and leadership were dispersed to several Arab countries?

— And the Americans cannot, or do not want to, exert enough pressure on the Israeli government to freeze those illegal settlements on the West Bank that are proving to be the biggest stumbling block to American plans and goals in this

area, let alone to regional peace and global stability?

Needless to say, Arab misgivings and scepticism about American views on the Middle East, and about visions of a black and white future that they are led to harbour, do not stop here. Many of them are aware of, and others worry about, history's judgement on the Arabs who sold out and those who did not do enough to redeem honour and recover what vital interests were lost. There also are those who believe that time is on the Arab side, and who are willing and prepared to fight to the bitter end.

Yet, history is meeting reality at a point where the majority of Arabs, including the Palestinians, is prepared to compromise, to trade Arab territory for Israeli security and to fight politically for Arab-Israeli co-existence and peace.

That point in time is now, and the Americans are right, for a change, that Arabs and Israelis would never make peace if the extremists on both sides had their way at this stage.

Looking at myself as a proud and patriotic Arab, I cannot help criticising my use of the label "extremist" for fellow Arabs who genuinely feel that time and right are on our side.

"How can I be a moderate when my basic rights are usu-

ally denied, unless I am weak and helpless?" I keep asking myself.

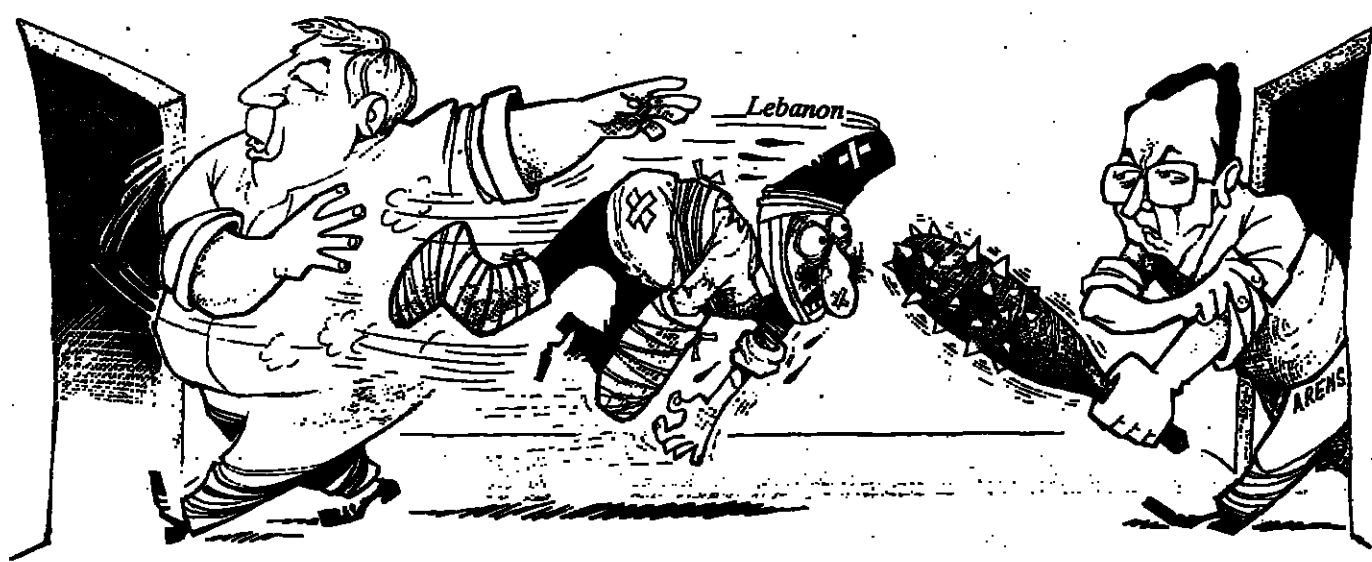
As far as I know, Begin and company are not entitled to one inch of 1948 Palestine, let alone annexing the West Bank and Gaza. And, to me, they are a bunch of extremists, if not neo-colonialists and racists.

This being the case, I do not really know why I am prepared right now to leave Israel to live in peace within its pre-1967 borders in return for a settlement of the Palestinian issue. Perhaps it is because we Arabs seem too weak to do otherwise or the cost of recovering the whole of Palestine is unimaginable in terms of human and material loss. Probably also, it is too much involvement in the space age that has taught us a way to live without the land, no matter how dear to us or beautiful.

But I am, and the majority of the Arabs is, I think, ready for a political accommodation with the Israelis.

What only a few of us are prepared to see, however, is Arab killing Arab in order to live and coexist with Israel, especially with the knowledge that the Israelis would love to watch such an ugly scene, with the Americans thoroughly enjoying the action.

If there will have to be American-sponsored peace, let Reagan pull the trigger.



Small role for Major Haddad

By Paul Eedle
 Reuter

SIDON — A tour of south Lebanon has revealed that Israeli troops remain the only effective force in the area, despite highly publicised moves by the Israeli-backed militia of Major Saad Haddad.

When Major Haddad set up

garrisons with tanks and armoured troop carriers in the southern towns of Sidon and Nabatieh this week there was a political uproar in Lebanon, with one leftist newspaper warning that the country faced imminent partition. Statements by Israeli officials that the Haddad militia could soon be absorbed into the Lebanese army raised suspicions that Israel was trying to install the major in permanent control of the south.

But the band of militiamen now stationed in a half-finished building on the edge of Sidon, for instance, is too small to be described as in any sense in control of this bustling town of 100,000 people.

Local residents said the garrison totalled a few dozen men at most. Four World War II vintage super Sherman tanks and six armoured personnel carriers, all newly painted grey, stood outside in neat lines but all had their hatches battened shut and none looked battle ready.

There were no sentries obviously on duty and the commander's office was sparsely equipped — a portable field radio, some Soviet-type assault rifles and a gilt-framed portrait of Major Haddad. In contrast, just south of the town, Israeli troops have built a big base with pre-fabricated buildings and metal watchtowers, protected by ramparts strewn with barbed wire. Soldiers with heavy machine-guns keep constant watch. In Sidon itself the Israeli army occupies the town hall. The

roof bristles with antennae and for protection all the roads around have been closed off with barbed wire.

Western diplomats in Beirut and well-connected residents of the South said they believed Israel had ordered Major Haddad to make his latest moves in order to pressure on the Beirut government in the current negotiations on an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

They said the Israelis were showing that if Lebanon did not agree to certain "security arrangements" in the south to prevent the return there of Palestinian guerrillas they were ready to install a puppet ruler in the area. The chief Israeli delegate to the withdrawal talks, David Kimche, denied such suggestions at a negotiating session last week.

Play-acting

"It's play-acting, Israeli play-acting," one Sidon resident of many years' standing said of the Haddad moves. The diplomats said the establishment of the Haddad garrisons in Sidon and Nabatieh appeared to have been timed to coincide with the Lebanese army's takeover of east Beirut from Christian militias, reminding the government that although it had now regained control of its capital, Israel still ruled the south.

The Lebanese have objected to the "security arrangements" being proposed by Israel because they would mean the continued presence of Israeli troops in Lebanon and the government wants a total withdrawal.

But the establishment of Major Haddad in nominal charge of the south would almost certainly mean the continued presence of a large number of Israeli forces. The Lebanese army and a multinational force of U.S., French Italian and British troops have mustered some 10,000 men to establish effective control of Beirut, a city of some one million people.

Major Haddad has a total of only 840 men, according to the Lebanese government, and the area in which Israel wants to see "security arrangements" is something like 2,000 square km of rugged hill country including half a dozen sizeable towns.

So far in Sidon, the Haddad forces have not even made any

move to set up checkpoints in the town itself. Neither have they sent in mobile patrols. People in Sidon say there are so many different armed bands in the area that once darkness fell even the well-equipped Israelis could not guarantee security.

"It's like a jungle after dark," one man said. He and others told of frequent robberies in which whole shops were stripped of their stock and cars stolen at gunpoint. Earlier this month some 15 Palestinians were shot dead in what seemed to be part of a campaign to scare Palestinian families into either staying within the refugee camps assigned to them or else leaving the area. In Nabatieh, the Haddad militia have taken over a modern two-storey villa on the outskirts of the town which used to be a headquarters of the mainstream Palestinian guerrilla group Fatah.

Four super Sherman tanks were parked in line on waste ground, their guns pointing at the villa. There were no soldiers working on the tanks as would be normal if they were ready for action.

Since the start of the protracted

Lebanese-Israeli talks in December, Israel has been pressing for a role in south Lebanon for Major Haddad and recently, Israeli officials have portrayed the militia as a major question at the talks.

But the Lebanese believe that in view of Major Haddad's dependence on Israel, his militia is a disc issue and the main subject for discussion is the presence of Israeli troops on Lebanese territory.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salem said this week: "We are negotiating the withdrawal of Israel from all of Lebanon and the Haddad issue will be solved with their departure."

Western diplomats said it was possible that some of Major Haddad's men were originally members of the Lebanese army might rejoin the army as individuals. But there was little chance of them being kept together as a unit with a role in south Lebanon and Major Haddad himself was still officially regarded as a deserter.

"I would be totally amazed if Haddad himself was given any future at all, but it's unresolved, one diplomat said.

LETTERS

Importance of education

To the Editor:

As a foreigner living in Jordan I am very aware of cultural differences between Jordan and the West, particularly women's role in society.

While reading Linda Layne's Guest Commentary on marriage and continuing education (Jordan Times, Feb. 13), I was shocked by the explanation given by a secondary school headmaster as to the exclusion of married women, "that married females might talk" about the intimacies of marriage to their "innocent" classmates.

Ms. Layne is correct in assuming that "innocents" can learn this information from sources outside the educational institutions. What is more significant, however, is: if society members — males and females, married and unmarried — further their education, they would acquaint themselves with numerous subjects for discussion far more constructive and interesting than inane conversation about the personal activities of others.

Deborah White-Chamma's
 P.O. Box 96
 Aqaba

Jeff is 1.75

Archaeometry replaces guesswork in dating artefacts

--German Research magazine

Microphotograph of patina of Etruscan bronze reveals conditions of preservation

The final similarity that can be drawn between these great epics has more to do with the *use that was made of the myths*. The dynasties and ruling classes of these early civilisations found justification in their position as it was stated in the myths that they were

300	Spinach	130	100
500	Tomatoes	200	150
200	Turnip	140	120
450	Watermelon	500	450

<i>Upper/lower price in filr per kg.</i>			
Apple (American)	420 / 350	(Grapefruit	120 / 100
Apple (Double Red)	200 / 150	Grape (white)	900 / 800
Apple (Golden)	200 / 150	Grapes (black)	1000 / 900
Apple (Turkish)	300 / 250	Leek (small)	150 / 130
Apple (French)	300 / 250	Marrow (large)	220 / 180
Apple (Starlike)	200 / 150	Marrow (small)	540 / 500
Banana	270 / 220	Olives	450 / 400
Banana (Mukammar)	230 / 200	Onion (dry)	150 / 120
Beans	550 / 500	Onion (green)	280 / 200
Beans (broad)	550 / 400	Oranges	270 / 250
Bean	110 / 80	Oranges (Madarani)	210 / 180
Bonall	280 / 200	Oranges (shamoni)	230 / 200
Cabbage	100 / 80	Oranges (local)	150 / 100
Carrot	180 / 150	Peaches	850 / 750
Cauliflower (white)	110 / 80	Pepper (Sweet)	460 / 400
Chestnut	520 / 450	Pepper (Hot Green)	720 / 660
Coconut	300 / 250	Potatoes	210 / 180
Cucumber (large)	400 / 300	Radish	70 / 60
Cucumber (small)	280 / 200	Spinach	130 / 100
Eggplant (large)	280 / 200	Tomatoes	200 / 150
Garlic	520 / 450	Turnip	140 / 120
		Watermelon	500 / 450

SPORTS

National basketball coach aims at 1984 Los Angeles Olympics

By Philip J. Robins
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In the five months that Robert Taylor has been coach to the Jordanian national basketball team he has implemented the sort of changes that just might take Jordan all the way to the 1984 Olympic Games.

Though Taylor, a tall powerfully built man from Ohio, as far as was possible did his homework on the state of the sport in Jordan before accepting a six month probationary contract, even he readily admits that he underestimated the size of the job. In particular he was "disappointed" to find the domestic competition so "sloppy and one-sided". The two leading sides, the Orthodox and Al Ahli clubs, regularly hammered their opponents by 50-60 points and were only tested when playing each other. Such a situation, which led to complacency and a loss of stamina, was self-perpetuating as all the younger players wanted to sign for one of the best clubs.

Indeed by the mid-seventies, basketball in Jordan had sunk into a real trough. Team tactics were outmoded, implementing the same zonal defense method as when the sport was introduced into Jordan in 1941, referees operated a strict interpretation of the rules relating to the physical blocking of opponents, which was more characteristic of the American high school rather than the international game, while Jordan drifted out of the world fixture circuit.

In order to remedy this, Taylor brought in a back-to-basics training regime, which has sought to restore the physical fitness of the team, with the accent on weight training. Conscious of his team's shortage of height, he radically changed his side's strategy giving full reign to its new mobility. Subsequently the national team will now play with more freedom up front, but with a tight man-to-man marking system at the back. Such a big change in philosophy had its casualties of course with over half the old squad being discarded in favour of younger men. But Taylor stands by this decision as it has given him a pool of players more amenable to change.

Taylor's vision of how the sport could develop in Jordan is in many ways matched by the ruling body, the Jordanian Basketball Federation (JBF), which, at the end of March, will open its new 5,000 capacity arena in Sports City. In particular Taylor hopes that such top class facilities will put his team back on the international map, and it is hoped that the stadium's opening game will be against the Iraqi national team.

However the new coach does not believe that the JBF should rest on its laurels, and will be asking for more resources as the team prepares for the Asian qualifying rounds in Hong Kong next November. The event is particularly significant as the winners will automatically qualify for the following summers Olympics. With the likes of China, Japan and South Korea also sending teams Taylor knows that the competition will be tough but as he says "like Cinderella, we really want to make it to the ball".



Robert Taylor

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To that end Taylor believes that the key to success is "preparation", and what the Jordanian team needs more than anything else is match practice up to a high standard. Therefore he hopes to take the team on a rigorous one month tour of the American mid-west before playing tough fortnightly competitive matches during the eight week run up to Hong Kong.

Robert Taylor is glad that he came to Jordan for it has provided a good opportunity to test his own coaching ability, while he believes the country has the potential to support a thriving basketball sport. Two years, he maintains, will be enough time to give his youngsters a good grounding in technique and application, and to teach his senior players the basic coaching skills. But ultimately, as Taylor strongly states, it is the excitement and challenge of the competitive game, which is so badly needed in Jordan, which will determine how successful Jordanian basketball can be, and whether Robert Taylor will stay here to preside over it.

West Indian cricket rebels defend sportsman's right to sell his talents

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The West Indians who defied cricket authorities by visiting South Africa have ended the tour with controversy undiminished and the players defending a professional sportsman's right to sell his talent as he wants.

"We consider ourselves to be no different than businessmen who go to South Africa to trade," commented Lawrence Rowe, the rebels' Jamaican skipper as he arrived in London last week.

The tourists won the hearts of South Africans but angered the international cricket community by breaking the sporting isolation of this racially divided country.

Now banished for life from the game in their own country, the 17 rebels led by Rowe, a former Jamaican captain, are contracted to return for an extended tour of South Africa next year, which is bound to further fuel the controversy.

But before that the tourists have to face the uncertain reaction of fellow West Indians when they return home.

Former Barbadian fast bowler Gregory Armstrong, who helped organise the tour, said here: "We knew from the outset that we would be banned from playing cricket, but socially we don't know what sort of reception we will be going back to."

The West Indian cricket authorities have been among the most vociferous opponents of any suggestion of a readmission of South Africa into world cricket and the rebel tourists have been branded as traitors in some quarters.

Several of the tourists said they

believed a large number of West Indians supported their decision to break the boycott of South Africa, which before its expulsion from the game's establishment was one of the strongest cricketing nations.

They said the Jamaican members of the party would face the sternest criticism on their return home. Rowe, who is involved in a sports clothing business, could be the hardest hit.

"If I hadn't come, this tour would have been off. So many of the other people were relying on me, and some of them are hard up. They need the cash," he said before leaving Johannesburg.

"It will be a nice pay day for me as well, but it is going to look a little sick financially if I am banned from my homeland and have to move my wife and three children elsewhere."

When he reached London, Rowe rejected criticism of the tour made by West Indies captain Clive Lloyd — "He has got no right to attack us. We are professional men and we have the right to make up our minds."

The South African Cricket Union (SACU) has refused to say how much the four-week tour has cost but local press reports said the West Indians were receiving up to \$125,000 each for the two-season contract.

Referring to the relatively small amounts of money earned by professional cricketers in the West Indies, opening batsman Richard Austin said:

"I cannot feed myself or my family on principles. Cricket is all I know and I am a professional. All I am doing is earning my living."

Fellow Jamaican Everton Matthews commented: "Cricket is my career, my life, my work. Other people are not stopped from working where they want to, so why should cricketers be?"

South Africa turned to cheque book cricket last year following 12 years of isolation, when it became apparent no amount of lobbying would gain them officially sanctioned re-entry into the international game.

The West Indians drew rapturous crowds packing the grounds where they played. White schoolboys raced on to the pitch to offer cold drinks to them after each notable achievement and clamoured for autographs even during play.

But the underlying emotion has been one of gratitude to the rebels for bringing at least a semblance of international cricket back to this sport-loving nation.

Not surprisingly, with all the political pressures on them and a four-week itinerary which gave them only two days free from cricket or flying around the country, the tourists often played indifferently.

But even so they managed to draw the two four-day match series and although South Africa took the six-match one-day series 4-2 it could easily have gone the other way with two of the games being extremely close.

The effect of the pressure was best illustrated by the form of wicketkeeper David Murray, married to an Australian and with a home in that country.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser announced that no West Indian on the tour would be

permitted, into the country again and in the first few matches a visibly worried Murray let through numerous extras.

Only after news that he was exempted did he show the form that has made him his country's number one keeper.

In the years before the boycott was imposed, there was never a chance of a West Indian team coming to South Africa, so stringent were the country's attitudes towards non-whites.

It was then Premier John Vorster's refusal to accept coloured (mixed race) Basil d'Oliveira as a member of the English touring team in 1968-69 that precipitated the sporting isolation of the republic.

At that time what is known as petty apartheid (enforced racial separation) was strictly applied.

The SACU has always said it does not support apartheid and that it has been instrumental in bringing about some relaxation of the laws.

It maintains that the West Indians' tour resulted in a spontaneous breaking down of racial barriers wherever they played, and furthered its policy of non-racism.

The first breakthrough for the SACU came with the March 1982 tour of an English squad led by former test star Graham Gooch for individual amounts said to be between \$50,000 and \$80,000.

Next came a team of Sri Lankans, slightly less well paid and not equipped to challenge the talented South Africans. But they were the first non-white team to visit these shores and paved the way for the West Indians.

W. Germany may apply for World Cup finals

BONN (R) — West Germany may apply to stage the 1986 World Cup soccer tournament if the current American applications are rejected. Hermann Neuberger, President of the West German Football Association (DFB), said Monday.

Neuberger, who is also president of the World Cup Organising Committee, said that if the International Football Federation (FIFA) turned down applications from Brazil, Mexico, the United States and Canada and invited fresh candidates to come forward, he would not exclude an application from the DFB.

"We are among the countries who would be able to organise a World Cup tournament in the short time remaining," he added.

West Germany, which hosted the 1974 finals, possesses a number of modern stadiums and up-to-date communications facilities.

Maradona surprised by manager's decision to quit

LLORET DE MAR, Spain (R) — Diego Maradona, Barcelona's Argentine World Cup soccer star, expressed surprise Tuesday at manager Udo Lattek's decision to leave the club.

Maradona, who also told reporters that he expected to be playing again next month, said: "It surprised me greatly because the team is doing well and our position in the table is good. But he knows what he has to do."

West German Lattek announced his decision to quit at the end of the season after Barcelona surrendered their first division leadership.

Italian Olympic soccer team to visit Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Rai Newspaper reported well-informed sources at the Jordan Football Federation as saying that the Italian Soccer Federation has officially agreed to send the Italian national Olympic team to Jordan. The Italians will be playing two matches in Amman with the Jordan national team next April, the sources said.

The forthcoming step is part of the Jordan Football Federation plan to arrange for thirty to forty matches for the national team to play with foreign teams this season in preparation for the qualification matches of the first Asian group for the Los Angeles Olympics.

English polo clubs to compete in Jordanian tournament

AMMAN (J.T.) — Three English polo teams are certain to visit Jordan next summer for a quadrilateral tournament in which the Jordanian national team will be participating. The matches will be played on the Zarqa polo playgrounds.

On the other hand, the Jordanian polo team has received a confirmation message from the Iraqi Equestrian Association affirming a previous invitation for the Jordanian polo team to participate in the international polo competitions to open in Baghdad on the first of April.

Hanika defeats Simmonds in \$150,000 tournament

OAKLAND, California (R) — Fifth-seeded Sylvia Hanika of West Germany lost only two games on the way to a 6-2, 6-0 victory over unseeded Sabina Simmonds of Italy in the first round of a \$150,000 tennis tournament here Monday.

Hanika and Simmonds, Italy's number-one player, were level 2-2 after the first four games but then Hanika stepped up her attack to win the next eight games and wrap up her victory in a little less than an hour.

In what was shaping up as the best match of the day ended abruptly when Peanut Louie of the U.S. pulled a muscle in her left leg while attempting to

return a drop shot. She had to concede her match against Iva Budarova of Czechoslovakia with the score standing at 7-6, 2-6, 3-2.

Other results: Catherine Tanvier of France beat Ann Kiyomura of the U.S. 6-2, 7-6, and Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia beat Julie Harrington of the U.S. 7-5, 6-4.

Britain's Sue Barker scored an easy 6-0, 6-3 victory over Rosemary Casals of the U.S.

American Mary Lou Piatek had it even easier, winning the first 11 games, dropping one game but then taking the next game at love to beat Leslie Allen, also of the U.S., 6-0, 6-1.

Holmes, Dokes to defend world boxing titles in May

NEW YORK (R) — World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight champion Larry Holmes and Mike Dokes, his World Boxing Association (WBA) counterpart, will defend their respective titles in separate American cities on May 20.

Holmes meets little-known Tim Witherspoon and Dokes faces former WBA champion Mike Weaver in a rematch, but the venues are not yet known.

Holmes, 33, unbeaten in 41 professional fights, will be making the 14th defence of the title he won from Ken Norton in June, 1978.

Witherspoon, 25, has won all 15 of his paid bouts—11 inside the distance—and is ranked fourth by the WBC.

Dokes won the WBA title in December when he stopped defending champion Weaver early in the first round.

Weaver's camp protested that referee Joey Curtis may have halted the fight prematurely and the WBA subsequently ordered the rematch.

Dokes, undefeated in 27 professional bouts, is managed by Carl King, son of Don King, who will promote both fights.

The younger King also manages Witherspoon, whose most notable victory was a decision over Renaldo Snipes, ranked second by

the WBC.

Weaver, 30, won the WBA title in March, 1980, when he knocked out John Tate in the 15th round.

The Dokes-Weaver fight is scheduled for 15 rounds while the Holmes-Witherspoon bout will be over the new WBC distance of 12 rounds.

Before his last fight, a one-sided points decision over Randy "Tex" Cobb in November, Holmes said he planned only one or two more bouts before retiring.

But on Monday he said he expected to fight at least twice more after the Witherspoon bout and perhaps into 1984.

"I'm 33, but I feel good, and I'll continue fighting until I don't have the desire any more," he said.

Holmes listed Greg Page and Gerrie Coetzee of South Africa as possible opponents after Witherspoon, a good boxer with a strong right, but with limited experience against quality fighters.

"I like Tim. He's a nice guy," Holmes said. "If he's shining, I'm going to have to knock him out."

Holmes was not as charitable towards WBC number one contender Page who would be a mandatory opponent for Holmes—probably this year—should the champion beat Witherspoon.

Page, who has lost only one of his 24 fights, is scheduled to meet Snipes in the main preliminary before the Holmes-Witherspoon fight.

Ossie Ocasio will defend his WBA cruiserweight title against Randy Stephens on the Dokes-Weaver bill.

Dokes is expected to receive about one million dollars for his defence, while Weaver has been guaranteed \$500,000. King declined to disclose the purses for Holmes and Witherspoon.

Top seed Lendl crashes out of WCT tourney

DELRAY BEACH, Florida (R) — Top seed Ivan Lendl crashed out of a \$300,000 World Championship Tennis (WCT) tournament Monday night when he slumped to a first round defeat against fellow-Czechoslovak Pavel Slozil.

Slozil, 27, took two hours and 38 minutes to beat Lendl 3-6, 7-6, 7-5 in a match played in blustery wind and intermittent rain. It was his first victory over the world's second ranked player.

Lendl, 22, was invincible on the WCT tour last year, winning all 10 events he entered and collecting \$1.3m in prize money. His last defeat on the circuit was in April 1981, when he was beaten by Czechoslovakia's Tomas Smid in Frankfurt.

"It's another loss. It's not the end of my tennis career," said Lendl after he was eliminated from the tournament.

Slozil, the third man behind Lendl and Smid in the Czechoslovak Davis Cup team due to play in Paraguay next week, won the second set tiebreaker 7-4 and seemed to be firmly in control in the final set.

He broke Lendl in the second game and stretched his lead to 5-2. But Lendl fought back when Slozil, on match point in the ninth game, put the ball into the net. Lendl jumped on this opportunity to force two groundstroke errors and close the gap to 4-5.

The final game started badly for Lendl. He apparently served an ace but the ball was called wide. Then he made three consecutive mistakes and found himself facing match point three times.

He saved the first two but hit a forehand wide to give Slozil the match.

"I just didn't play well. I couldn't put the ball away. I had to laugh at myself," said Lendl, who has been resting a sore right arm for the last two weeks.

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"I just didn't play well. I couldn't put the ball away. I had to laugh at myself," said Lendl, who has been resting a sore right arm for the last two weeks.

England's preparations for British Championships somewhat spooky

LONDON (R) — There is something decidedly spooky about England's preparations for Wednesday's British Soccer Championship clash with Wales at Wembley.

For a start, manager Bobby Robson has been forced to name a "ghost" team. The Manchester United-Arsenal League Cup semifinal second leg on the same night has cost him the services of captain Bryan Robson, Steve Coppell, Graham Rix, Tony Woodcock and Kenny Sansom while Tottenham's Glenn Hoddle is sidelined through injury.

But the England boss will be hoping another famous figure fails to put in appearance at Bisham Abbey, the squad's new training headquarters.

The ghost of Lady Elizabeth Hoboy, who lived in the Abbey in the 16th century, is rumoured to walk the oak-panelled corridors and stately rooms. A sighting during the build up to the match would be a bad omen.

Wales, too, have a habit of haunting England. They have not lost at Wembley for 10 years and another success would cause much weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth at Bisham Abbey.

The biggest threat to England will be Liverpool striker Ian Rush, who in the manner of Lady Elizabeth, appears to float through solid objects—like defences—and materialise in the penalty area to stunning effect.

Rush, 21, is the first division's leading scorer and has the pace and skill to worry the pedestrian Alvin Martin and Terry Butcher in the heart of the England defence.

With Bryan Robson on Cup duty, Southampton goalkeeper Peter Shilton will captain the England team which contains two new caps, West Bromwich fullback Derek Statham and Aston Villa midfielder Gordon Cowans.

W. Germany meets Portugal in friendly soccer match

LISBON (R) — World Cup runners-up West Germany take on Portugal in a friendly soccer match here Wednesday.

Portugal, who were thrown into turmoil by the threatened resignation of their manager Otto Glória.

Brazilian Glória, who managed Portugal to third place in the 1966 World Cup, was meeting with the Portuguese soccer officials Tuesday after claiming his job has been made impossible by clubs withholding players for important European ties.

Glória, brought back less than a year ago to take the national side through the European Championships, threatened to resign in protest after Benfica and Sporting Lisbon withdrew several players claiming they were ill or unfit.

Benfica meet Roma of Italy in the first leg of their UEFA Cup quarter-final next week and Sporting play Spain's Real Sociedad in the European Cup.

As a result, the Portuguese will have to field an untried side against the West Germans.

League leaders Benfica, who normally supply the majority of the international squad, will be represented only by goalkeeper Bento, Captain Humberto Coelho, striker Nene, midfielder Alves, defender Pietro and three others have reported unfit as have Sporting's Oliveira, Jordao and Virgilio.

Glória has indicated that he felt the clubs had reported team members sick because of their important European matches next week.

A small number of demonstrators gathered outside the Portuguese Soccer Federation's headquarters Monday night demanding the resignation of chairman Romão Martins.

The West German line-up has also been hit by club commitments and injury. Uli Stielke, Bernd Schuster and Holger Hieronymus are all missing.

Rudi Voeller, who came on as substitute in West Germany's 1-0 European Championship defeat in Northern Ireland last November is likely to win his second cap with Wolfgang Rolff likely to make his debut.

France recalls Bedel for Davis Cup team

PARIS (R) — France, losing finalists last year, have recalled Dominique Bedel for their opening match in the Davis Cup tennis tournament against the Soviet Union next month.

Casablanca-born Bedel, who last played in the competition in 1979, was named by non-playing captain Jean-Pierre Loth Tuesday in a four-man squad for the championship division first round to be in Moscow from March 4 to 6.

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NOTICE OF FILM SHOW

Due to weather conditions the Embassy of Japan Re-present The Japanese Film Show

Schedule: Wednesday 23, Feb. 1983 at 5 p.m.

"Branch School Diary" Arabic sub. Adults/Children

Thursday 24, Feb. 1983 at 7 p.m.

"Melody in Gray" Arabic sub. Adults only

Venue: the Chamber of Industry Admission free

TIME

EUROPE:

Palace Dallas: Royalty and the Press (cover)

Germany's Galloping Greens (May hold balance-of-power leverage after March 6 election)

Berlin as dropout city (Gathering place of the counterculture)

America's recession fading out (Time's board of economists sees strong recovery in '83)

A helping hand from the Mafia (exclusive account of how the Italian turned to the underworld for help in locating kidnapped General Dozier)

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ECONOMY

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwait Airways buys 11 Airbus

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait Airways Corporation said Monday it had placed orders for 11 European Airbus airliners worth \$1 billion, the official Kuwait News Agency reported. The first of the aircraft would be delivered in September. The airline would also lease an Airbus during the summer to meet an expected upsurge in demand, he said. The agency also quoted a spokesman for the French, West German and British consortium which makes the plane, Airbus-Industrie, as saying that the Kuwaiti order took sales in the Middle East to 41 and to 500 world-wide.

W. German wholesale prices fall

WIESBADEN, West Germany (R) — Wholesale prices in West Germany have fallen on an annual basis for the first time in over four years, signalling further declines in the cost of living, official figures showed Monday. The federal statistics office said the wholesale price index last month was 0.2 per cent below January 1982, the first annual fall since October 1978. West German consumer price inflation, last month below four per cent on an annual basis for the first time since mid-1979, has been forecast to fall further this year.

India's economy predicted to slow

NEW DELHI (R) — Crop losses and balance of payment strains have slowed India's economic growth this financial year, a government survey predicted Tuesday. The finance ministry's economic survey for the year ending in March said the Gross National Product (GNP) was expected to grow by only two per cent, against five per cent last year. But it saw better prospects for next financial year starting in April, depending on industrial production and weather.

Philippines to seek labour markets

MANILA (R) — The Philippines labour minister will leave for the Middle East this week to try to find alternative employment for thousands of Filipino workers whose jobs there are threatened by a drop in oil prices, his ministry said Tuesday. It said that the minister, Mr. Blas Ople, hoped to find other jobs for the workers in the operation and maintenance of plants and installations. There are about 250,000 Filipino construction workers in the Middle East, most of them in Saudi Arabia. The workers remit an estimated \$650 million to the Philippines each year to bolster the country's foreign exchange position.

France may ease import controls

PARIS (R) — France is likely to announce an easing of import controls of Video Cassette Recorders (VCRs) following Tuesday's meeting in Brussels of European Community foreign ministers, foreign trade ministry sources and French importers said. The ministers are discussing an accord limiting Japanese exports to the Community, including a ceiling of 4,550,000 VCRs for 1983.

EEC, Spanish officials meet

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community and Spanish ministers met Tuesday to discuss Spain's entry to the 10-nation bloc with progress expected on a calendar for negotiations, diplomats said. Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran was expected to tell the Community that his country would present by June all documents needed for talks to begin in earnest.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I think I need a few more cooking lessons. The salad exploded!"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TAVIL

NUCOE

MIRSUQ

YONNAC



WHAT THE GUY WHO SPENT MOST OF HIS LIFE IN JAIL MUST HAVE HAD PLenty OF.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "FOOT PENCE GHETTO BARREN"

Yesterday's Jumbles: AFOOT PENCE GHETTO BARREN
Answer: The fare might not be heavy—"FEATHER"

Gulf nations hold crucial talks

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates held crucial talks here Tuesday on the oil production and pricing crisis, with two ministers saying a concerted price cut was likely.

Oil ministers of the four key OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) members face what oil analysts described as possibly irresistible pressure to cut prices, following large reductions by other exporters trying to revive flagging sales in a glutted market.

Earlier reports indicated the four would be joined at the talks by fellow Gulf Cooperation Council members Bahrain and Oman. But Gulf news agencies said Tuesday the two non-OPEC members were not at the meeting, although Iraq's Oil Minister Qasem Ahmad Taqi was flying to Riyadh to join the talks.

Libyan Oil Minister Kamel Hassan Al Maghour, who earlier this month shuttled between Gulf capitals in an attempt to assemble a full meeting of OPEC, might also join the talks, informed sources said.

Kuwait's Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah was earlier quoted by a Kuwaiti newspaper as saying the Gulf states would not cut their oil prices.

But Qatar's Oil Minister Abdul Aziz Al Thani told the official Saudi News Agency on arrival in Riyadh: "We have to cut prices to get out of the crisis."

Asked about reports a \$5 a barrel cut was planned he added: "I tend to support these expectations."

The UAE's oil minister also said price cuts were likely.

Speaking to the official Emirates News Agency Wam in Abu Dhabi before leaving for the Saudi capital, Dr. Mana Said Al Oteibi said the present \$34 benchmark price was no longer relevant.

Oil analysts said that Saudi Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani and his colleagues faced an agonising choice if they decided to cut the \$34 benchmark.

A reduction of \$4 a barrel, as widely forecast in the industry until the unexpectedly large Nigerian cut, would do little to revive flagging sales but would cut the Gulf states' revenues by about \$25 million per day, they said.

Meanwhile, the state-owned British National Oil Corporation said Monday its proposed price cut of \$3 a barrel to \$30.50 would be shelved until developments on the world market became clearer.

Prices for crude and oil products on the free market fell sharply Monday and sterling was also weak on expectations the Gulf states would slash prices in response to the Nigerian move.

Algeria, on the other hand, called for an urgent OPEC meeting to try to stave off a price war, saying last week's cuts could cost the organisation \$30 billion in revenues this year.

As Gulf oil ministers were meeting in Saudi Arabia for crisis talks, oil-producing countries in the Far East were worried about the prospect of price cuts and the effect on their growth.

The region's oil-importing countries would welcome any reductions in prices.

Indonesia, the only member of OPEC in the area, has made no move to follow Nigeria's breach in the organisation's price line of \$34 a barrel.

Official sources expected Indonesia to wait for Saudi Arabia to move before taking action.

A survey of the region by Reuters correspondents produced the following reactions:

—TOKYO: The government's economic planning agency said an average 10 per cent fall in prices of crude would benefit the depressed domestic economy.

It would reduce commodity prices, pull down domestic interest rates, stimulate capital spending and raise the value of the yen.

—JAKARTA: Industry sources said in the event of a price war, Indonesia, dependent on oil and gas for over 70 per cent of its foreign revenues, would face heavier

overseas borrowing.

It would also probably have to dip more deeply into its dwindling foreign exchange reserves, further tighten imports, and possibly postpone several major development projects.

—PEKING: A Western diplomatic source said there was no reason why China could not step up oil exports to meet a revenue shortfall caused by lower prices.

—SYDNEY: Economists predicted price cuts would be a mixed blessing for Australia, with its 65 per cent self-sufficiency in oil.

Price reductions would lower inflationary pressures, but one economist said a cut of \$4 a barrel would wipe \$360 million a year off government revenues.

—KUALA LUMPUR: In Malaysia, a net oil exporter, economists said any sharp drop in production or prices could affect growth prospects this year since oil revenues now account for about a third of export earnings, higher than rubber, tin and palm oil.

—SINGAPORE: Economists said cheaper oil might have a negative effect on Singapore's petroleum-based industries, but this would not be a destabilising factor for the whole economy.

—NEW DELHI: Cuts in oil prices would be likely to provide substantial relief for India, which meets almost half its domestic

needs through imports, analysts said.

—SEOUL: Official said falls in oil prices would help South Korea's economy, troubled by a long recession.

A survey showed a cut to \$30 a barrel would help stabilise domestic prices and push the economic growth rate up.

—TAIPEI: Taiwan's economic growth rate would rise one per cent if OPEC lowers its oil price by \$4 a barrel, according to the Taiwan economic research council.

—BANGKOK: Over 20 per cent of Thailand's total import bill last year was for oil.

The country would welcome price cuts, officials said.

—COLOMBO: A spokesman for Sri Lanka's state-run Ceylon Petroleum Corporation said about 30 per cent of the country's foreign exchange earnings went on oil.

Falls in price would greatly help the economy, he said.

—MANILA: Officials said \$5 drop in the price of a barrel of oil would mean a saving of about \$325 million for the Philippines' balance of payments.

—HONG KONG: An industrialist said lower oil prices would cut manufacturing costs in Hong Kong, especially for light industry and electronics.

Sterling continues decline

LONDON (R) — Sterling continued its decline against major currencies on money markets Tuesday as dealers awaited the outcome of Gulf oil price talks in Saudi Arabia.

The Bank of England's trade-weighted index, a basket of currencies of Britain's major trading partners with a 1975 base of 100, fell to 79.8 points at noon — a four-year low — compared with Monday's close of 80.2.

In Frankfurt, the price of sterling was fixed at 3.684 marks, its lowest point against the West German currency since Nov. 1, 1978, dealers said.

Sterling had been fairly stable for the past week, but it started its slide Monday on fears of a price war after Nigeria cut its oil prices in reaction to proposed price cuts by Britain and Norway late last week.

The pound traded at \$1.5275 in London compared with Monday's close of \$1.5337.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Stock prices fell slightly in nervous trading reflecting fears of an oil price war which forced sterling down to a four year low, dealers said.

Government bonds fell up to one point in line with sterling and oil shares declined with Shell 12p lower at 426. Gold shares lost as much as \$5 as the bullion price fell sharply.

Volume was low and at 1500 the F.T. index was down 1.5 at 643.1

B.P. and Tricentral were 10p down apiece while Lasso and Ultramar were both 18p lower. The fall in Burmah was, however, limited to a penny at 130 after 133 due to bid speculation, dealers said.

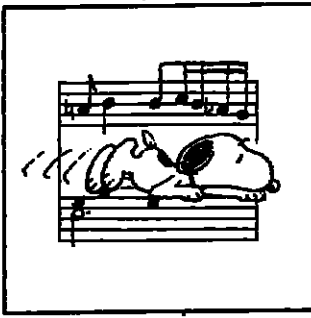
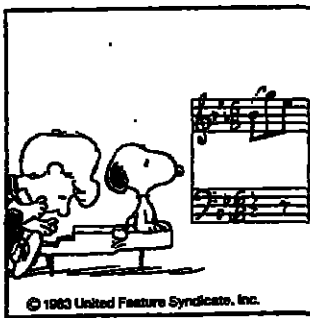
ICI and Plessey, whose results are due Thursday, were both 2p up at 380 and 609 respectively. Other industrials were mixed. Commercial Union ended 3p higher at 138 after the unchanged final dividend on a generally firmer insurance sector.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

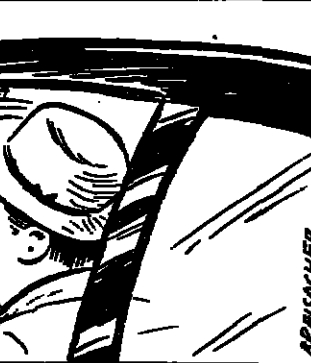
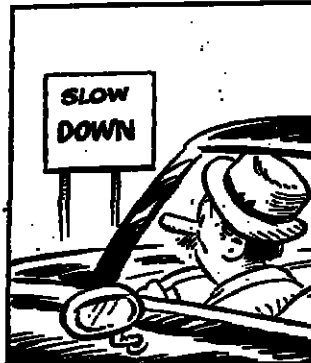
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.5260/70	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2231/34	Canadian dollars
	2.3953/63	West German marks
	2.6470/80	Dutch guilders
	1.9970/90	Swiss francs
	47.15/20	Belgian francs
	6.7900/50	French francs
	1382.00/1383.00	Italian lire
	232.50/65	Japanese yen
	7.3850/70	Swedish crowns
	7.0730/50	Norwegian crowns
	8.5035/60	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	502.50/503.25	U.S. dollars

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, FEB. 23, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day for thinking and adopting new policies under which you would like to operate in the future. Follow a specific plan of action that could result in success.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Plan how to put your finest talents to work and then go ahead in a most positive fashion. Spend your money wisely.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Take time to study new outlets that could be profitable in the future. Obtain the data you need. Use care in travel.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Explain your ideas to associates before going ahead with a plan you have in mind. Relax in the evening.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Make plans to engage in business activities that could bring in more revenue in the future. Be sensible.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Handle important business matters in the morning, then talk to a money expert who can be helpful. Don't neglect personal affairs.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Doing what an adviser has to say can help you gain a desirable goal. Use common sense in dealing with associates.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Study your personal affairs and make plans for improvements. Make plans that will give you more abundance in the days ahead.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Know what it is that higher-ups expect of you, and then do your best to please them. Strive to be a happier person.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You can easily get ahead in your line of endeavor now if you apply yourself to the difficult tasks at hand.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Use modern methods in handling regular routines and get excellent results. Meet the expectations of higher-ups.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) A new situation of a pleasant nature comes up but you have to be quick on the uptake to benefit. Express your talents.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You are enthused about your work assignment, but first confer with associates before making any definite plans.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be delightful to others, but you should guard against spoiling your progeny. A good education is required to bring out the fine talents in this chart. Don't neglect ethical training early in life.

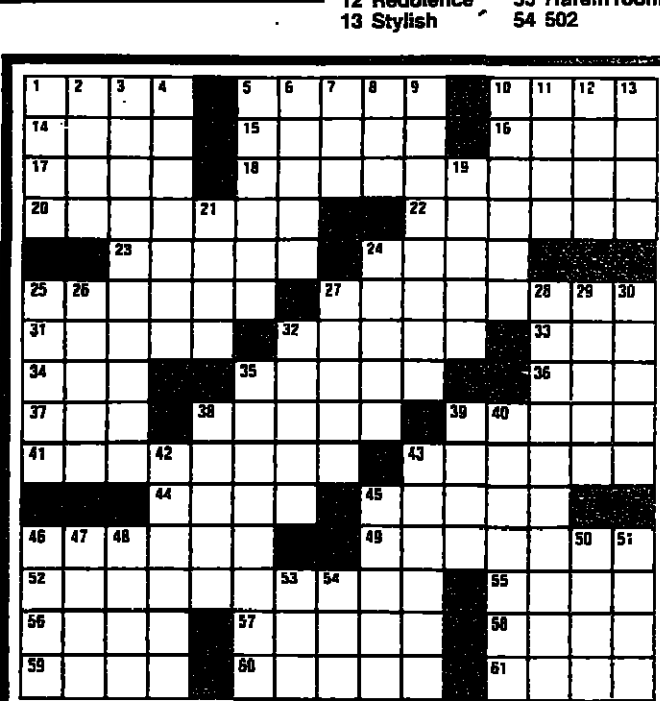
"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

THE Daily Crossword By Evelyn Benshoot

ACROSS	27 Agrees	45 "Dallas"	19 "— and Punishment"
1 Vipers	31 Misjudged	name	21 Ceased being
5 Israeli coin	32 Bold	46 Porgy, for one	24 Jar
10 Flue residue	33 Star	49 Hand movement	25 Entertained
14 Attempt	34 Punish severely	52 Mixture	26 Papal vestment
15 Disseminated	35 Slow vehicle	55 Arrow	27 Wading bird
16 Entertainer	36 Fleur-de-	58 Bread spread	28 Mixture
Ray	37 Wallace or Whitney	57 Dunce	29 More frigid
17 London museum	38 Dress style	58 Old Scandinavian land ownership	30 Places one within another
18 Mixture	39 Ant, old style	59 Nibs	32 Corrupt, in a way
20 Hinders	41 Recount	60 Puts on weight	35 Speakeasy
22 Religious house	43 Primitive weapons	61 Small drinks	38 Palmer of golf
23 Deem	44 Hathaway		39 Ornaments on pointed roofs
24 Foment			40 Allude to
25 Defiled			42 Freight var.

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

MAJIA	DEJIA	ELJIC	1 Italian city
ALIAN	ETION	RALLY	2 Pretense
TOGS	WHHARRISOM		3 Mixtures
CHAW	YON	AERATE	4 Narrow tower
HAREM	SQUITO		5 Mount
ABRID	OUN	ALIA	6 Step or flesh
SOT	RIADILL	IMAGE	7 Confess
PRESIDENT	SINAMIES		8 — room
ALLOY	SCENE	EST	9 Supportive
RIEDS	SKY	ARIGIS	10 Lampoon
ABSCIAN	DUO	RISE	11 Mixture
GLEIVELAND	ROITE		12 Redolence
ADORE	AMID	SILED	13 Stylish
SETION	DISCS	EKES	



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WORLD

Congress (I) headed for victory in Assam's massacre aftermath

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress (I) Party headed towards a landslide election victory in Assam Tuesday, but most voters appear to have stayed away from the polls following the intercommunal bloodshed.

The party has won 40 of the 45 seats so far declared in the state election. Assamese militants have urged voters to boycott the election, which has led to the death of up to 1,000 immigrants, mainly Bangladeshi Muslims. The militants are demanding the expulsion of the immigrants.

In one of the 126 constituencies only 400 out of 64,000 eligible voters cast ballots. Election analysts said some successful candidates had collected fewer votes than the number of spoiled papers in their constituencies in the election five years ago.

The Congress victory is unlikely to be greeted with euphoria by even its staunchest supporters. The entire country appears to have been shocked by what commentators are referring to as the Assamese holocaust.

At least 500 Muslim immigrants were massacred by tribesmen at Nellie, Central Assam, on Friday in the worst outbreak of election violence, compared by commentators with the rioting and violence that accompanied partition. Referring to the Nellie slaughter, the Times of India said in an editorial Tuesday: "Nothing so gruesome

has disgraced India since the post-partition riots."

The Times said the Nellie tragedy was an outcome of the Indian government's decision to impose elections on Assam.

"In all probability it would not have taken place if the authorities had not pressed ahead with the ill-conceived move even after daily clashes involving heavy losses of life had made it abundantly clear that the poll would not settle any issue," the paper said.

It called for the poll to be annulled and the constitution amended to keep Assam under direct central government rule.

The Indian Express said it was important that the nation should not divide and reduce the tragedy of Assam to a partisan contest.

Meanwhile, as Parliament in Delhi held a special debate on the violence in the embattled northeastern state, Mrs. Gandhi visited its capital Gauhati, and Nellie.

Opposition parties charged that at best Mrs. Gandhi had grossly miscalculated the potential consequences of pressing ahead with the state assembly elections, and at worst, cynically exploited the unrest to win a Congress majority in Assam.

Speaking to reporters in Assam, as the mutilated bodies of massacre victims were still being recovered from the fields for burial, Mrs. Gandhi rejected any moral responsibility for the bloodshed, blaming anti-immigrant agitators.

Karachi police fire at religious demonstrators

KARACHI (R) — Police opened fire on hundreds of religious protesters Tuesday wounding about six people, to break up violent demonstrations over the ownership of a mosque, witnesses said.

The demonstrators were trying to storm a suburban police station on the outskirts of Karachi, Pakistan's largest city.

Other groups of demonstrators rioted for the second day through a section of Karachi 15 kilometres from the business centre, burning vehicles and shops and stoning cars.

A police spokesman said more than 100 people had been arrested since the disturbances started Monday afternoon. Seven policemen had been injured in the running street battles.

The clashes died down Monday night but flared up again Tuesday morning when the area's Sunni Muslims tried to enforce a general strike called to protest against Monday's police action.

The dispute involves the ownership of a Karachi mosque claimed by both the Sunni Muslims,

who are in the majority in Pakistan, and the Shia Muslims, who are in the minority.

Expulsion demanded

The Sunnis also demanded the expulsion of Iran's consul in Karachi for interfering in the row. Shias are in the majority in Iran.

About 10 vehicles, three suburban banks, three petrol stations and three shops were set on fire by the demonstrators.

Sunni leaders said several hundred of their followers had been injured but had not sought hospital treatment for fear of being arrested.

Police used tear gas and baton charges to break up groups of demonstrators. In one clash, people hurled stones at police guarding the disputed mosque which has been taken over by the government.

Pakistan's military authorities said Monday the dispute had been settled with both sides agreeing that the mosque should be used as a government-run medical dispensary.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠K109542 ♣QJ963 5 ♠Q

The bidding has proceeded: North East South

1 ♠ 1 ♠ ?

What action do you take?

A.—What action would you like to take? You can't bid two hearts freely, for that would be forcing and could propel your side to an uncomfortable level. You might double one spade if you were sure that would end the auction, but there is a reasonable chance that someone won't sit for it—perhaps even your partner. The prudent course is to pass and await developments.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠873 ♣KJ8 ♣QJ ♠96742

The bidding has proceeded: South West North East

3 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass

3 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—So far, you have shown nothing but four or five worthless clubs. Despite that, partner is prepared to contract for eleven tricks. Your red cards must mesh extremely well with partner's holding, and your hand should contribute two or three tricks to your side's efforts. The least you can do is bid six clubs—we would even vote for a bid of five hearts as a grand slam probe.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠K84 ♣987542 6 ♠QJ5

The bidding has proceeded: East South West North

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ 2 NT Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—Partner's bid is the Unusual No Trump convention. Therefore, you should not bid hearts or raise no trump—partner is asking you to bid your better minor. Since you have a minimum hand for his purposes, all you can do is oblige by bidding three clubs.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as

South you hold:

♠K1093 ♠AKQ4 ♠A873 ♠6

Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

A.—When you hold the equivalent of 19 points as responder, you jump shift with one of two types of hands—either when you have a self-sufficient suit of your own, or when you have a fit for partner's suit. This hand certainly meets the latter condition, so jump to three hearts. Don't worry about the fact that it is a four-card suit. You can always correct to spades if partner raises your suit.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AQ1054 ♠6 ♠KQ82 ♠83

The bidding has proceeded: North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—Beware, this hand has all the earmarks of a misfit. It sounds as if partner has six hearts and four clubs so, despite the fact that you have a good opening bid yourself, the possibility of making game is not bright. Indeed, we wouldn't criticize you if you dropped the bidding right now before the opponents start doubling. However, that would be too pessimistic. Since partner could still have extra values for his opening bid, we would make one final try with two no trump.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠AJ82 ♠AQ95 07 ♠AJ102

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?

A.—You have the sort of hand that looks as if it will take more tricks on defense than on offense, so pass and hope the opponents get into trouble. If you double, you will be skating on thin ice. Partner will, of course, bid diamonds (partners never bid what you want them to bid), and you will be in trouble. Discretion is definitely the better part of valor here.

Cheysson finds Andropov 'lacking human warmth'

PARIS (R) — France's External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson said Monday night Soviet leader Yuri Andropov, whom he met in Moscow Monday, lacked human warmth and was like a computer with "precision in word and gesture."

Mr. Cheysson was the first senior Western official to have formal talks with Mr. Andropov since the death of former Kremlin chief Leonid Brezhnev last November.

He spoke on the talks in a late-night interview with French television reporters after flying from Moscow to Brussels for a meeting of the European Community foreign affairs council.

The 68-year-old Mr. Andropov, he said, "made a presentation which was cool and objective, accompanied at times by a little personal touch in his gesture, in his smile or in the way he set out an argument."

He added: "But in all this he was extraordinary dispassionate, lacking in that human warmth which I found elsewhere, in Leningrad and even in my talks with

(Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei) Gromyko."

Asked if he found Mr. Andropov, for many years head of the KGB security police, to be a modern man, Mr. Cheysson replied: "Yes, he is a modernist in the sense of a computer, in the sense of precision of word and gesture."

Mr. Cheysson said Mr. Andropov and his Kremlin colleagues had insisted throughout the Moscow talks that French nuclear missiles should be counted with those controlled by the NATO alliance in East-West disarmament negotiations.

Mr. Andropov, he added, did not appear to want to take any account of his argument that the French nuclear deterrent was independent since France was not part of the NATO military structure.

"He did not have any answer to my argument when I said to him: Do you, the USSR, want to reintegrate France into NATO, to force us to use our nuclear arms to protect the whole of Europe?" Mr. Cheysson said.

Solidarity leader cancels visit to industrial region

WARSAW (R) — Lech Walesa, leader of the banned Solidarity union, Tuesday backed off plans to make his first visit to Poland's industrial heartland of Silesia since his union was closed down under martial law.

Mr. Walesa, speaking from his home in Gdansk, told Reuters by telephone technical problems were preventing him from making the journey Wednesday to attend a church mass in Katowice for Solidarity members imprisoned or killed under martial law.

He denied suggestions the church or the authorities may have put pressure on him not to make the trip in view of delicate negotiations this week on next summer's visit to Poland by the Pope.

Mr. Walesa said his car had broken down. Even if it were fixed, freezing weather had made the roads dangerous for the long drive.

Since his release from imprisonment last November, the 39-year-old union leader has been prevented by the authorities from making public gestures and speeches to try to revive the immense popular support and political power he once enjoyed.

Sierra Leone press story causes uproar in Liberia

MONROVIA (R) — A Sierra Leone press report that Liberian leader Samuel Doe killed his wife has produced a crisis in relations between the two neighbouring West African states.

The report, officially denied in Monrovia, was followed Monday night by the announcement of a Liberian ban on all land, air and sea travel to Sierra Leone.

Defence ministry sources in

Monrovia said Liberian troops were moved to the Sierra Leone border and other officials reported the recall of the Liberian ambassador to that country.

Liberia's information ministry, denying the report in the Sierra Leone newspaper Progress Monday night, called it irresponsible journalism, and said Mrs. Doe was alive and well.

Infra-red camera records birth of Magellanic stars

CHILTON, England (R) — Scientists have said they had succeeded in penetrating a veil of intergalactic dust and photographing, possibly for the first time, the birth of stars.

The computerised, coloured photographs, made public by project leaders, were taken with an infra-red camera carried by a satellite which was launched by the United States, Britain and the Netherlands from California last week.

The relatively new-born stars are 150,000 light years away, in the nearest galaxy to earth's, known as the Large Magellanic Cloud.

Dr. Pon Soifer of the U.S. team told a news conference at the British station controlling the satellite that a very active region of star formation had been confirmed in the Magellanic galaxy.

Until now, he said, scientists had only been able to observe stars already born, but the pictures showed what was believed to be stars going through their 100,000-year process of formation.

"This may be the first observation of stellar birth in this galaxy or any other," he said.

Scientists at the Chilton tracking station 65 kilometres west of London are jubilant over the progress of the Infra-Red Astronomical Satellite (IRAS).

It is designed to observe stars, galaxies and clouds of dust and gas that emit infra-red light undetectable from earth. Its mission is expected to last about 300 days.

Dr. Soifer said the satellite had already confirmed the presence of 20 galaxies already believed to exist and was expected to find many previously unseen.

Its most distant observation was 300 million light years from earth, he said.

The project's leaders said the satellite was expected to record up to 200,000 objects as it circled earth 14 times a day.

Dr. Fred Gillett, another member of the U.S. team, said: "It is the hope and the dream of astronomers for a decade come

Begin stirs diplomatic hornet's nest

JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli diplomats have launched a campaign against what they see as increasing politicisation of the foreign ministry by the right-wing government of Prime Minister Menachem Begin, a senior diplomat said Tuesday.

Ze'ev Sufot, who heads the foreign ministry's European desk and is chairman of the diplomats' works committee, told Reuters diplomats of all ranks were extremely bitter at the way Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir was appointing prominent members and supporters of the ruling right-wing Likud Party to senior ambassadorial posts.

"Morale in the ministry is very low. We hold meetings and make speeches and sign petitions but there seems to be little we can do about the situation. It hurts us all and makes us wonder about our professional status and future," he said.

Feeling has reached its height over the pending appointment of Eliyahu Lankin, a political nominee and personal friend of the prime minister currently serving as ambassador in South Africa, as ambassador to Britain, a post traditionally reserved for career diplomats.

Mr. Sufot said the government had an agreement with the diplomats that entitled it to appoint 15 nominees from outside the foreign ministry to head Israeli embassies or consulates.

"This agreement was made before 1967 when we still had relations with black Africa and Eastern Europe. In those days, we were represented in about 90 countries. Now, we have a presence in roughly half that number," he said.

"Up to four years ago, the government never filled its quota of political appointments and used to have only five or six of its own men as ambassadors. But this has all changed. Now they have their full quota which means nearly a third of all the senior jobs available are filled by political appointees," he added.

Mr. Lankin, a lawyer by profession, was a commander in Mr. Begin's Irgun underground guerrilla movement which fought a violent campaign against the British before Israel gained independence in 1948.

Several British politicians have said his appointment as ambassador to London would awaken bitter memories and could lead to a cooling of relations between the two countries.

In an interview with the Haaretz newspaper this week, Mr. Lankin said that Britain had welcomed leaders of other anti-British national liberation movements after their countries gained independence and was only making an exception for him because "the English apparently have special criteria for Jews."

Mr. Sofer said the works committee had submitted an official complaint to the foreign minister about the interview.

"It's a perfect example of a man going against all the accepted norms of our profession and speaking like a politician instead of like a diplomat," he said.

Foreign ministry morale has also been severely damaged by what the diplomats regard as their low salaries and poor working conditions.

In December, for the first time ever, they went on strike, shutting Israeli embassies and consulates all over the world for two days. But so far their demands have not been met.

British royals battle with tabloid press

LONDON (R) — Queen Elizabeth's household was locked in a legal battle Tuesday to stop a former servant revealing intimate details of British royal family life.

Buckingham Palace officials obtained a court injunction Monday stopping Britain's biggest selling newspaper, the Sun, from continuing a series by former palace kitchen storekeeper Kieran Kenny.

In the first episode of Mr. Kenny's tale in Monday's edition, The Sun reported that American film actress Koo Stark has been a frequent overnight guest of Prince Andrew.

"Kenny told how sultry starlet Koo Stark romped like a queen bee at the palace," it said.

The Sun, owned by Australian Rupert Murdoch, said it was amazed by the palace's ban and added: "We intend to contest this injunction vigorously."

Opponents await Mondale's big fall

ST. PAUL, Minnesota (R) — Former Vice-President Walter Mondale has entered the 1984 Democratic presidential race determined to prove he can lead the way and survive the front-runner jinx of U.S. politics.

Announcing his candidacy Monday, Mr. Mondale said he alone of opposition Democrats had the experience to pull America out of economic stagnation, restore it to global leadership, end the nuclear arms race and drive President Reagan's Republicans out of the White House.

"I am ready," he told the cheering partisan crowd in the capital of his home state. "I know the White House. I know where the talent is. I know how to shape a government. I know the Congress."

Mr. Mondale, 55, who was vice-president under Jimmy Carter, later promised jobless workers and elderly people in Minnesota's depressed iron mining region that his administration "would have a philosophy that is entirely different from the one that is causing you to suffer today."

He added: "I don't believe America was meant to be a jungle where we have the survival of the fittest or the richest."

Mr. Mondale has a comfortable lead over other Democratic party hopefuls but he still has to obliterate old doubts about his ambition and stamina.

He quit the 1974 presidential race, saying he was not "willing to go through fire" and dismissing the protracted business of campaigning as distasteful.

In the run-up to next year's White House election, his main foe will not be Mr. Reagan but party rivals waiting for him to make some fatal blunder or suffer

from over-exposure as the best known Democrat in the field.

"We hope and pray he remains the front-runner through late summer," said one campaign strategist for Ohio Sen. John Glenn, the former astronaut regarded as Mr. Mondale's closest rival. "We don't see how he can sustain it longer than that."

Sen. Gary Hart of Colorado, another Democratic contender, has said: "I don't envy Mondale the intense scrutiny he will get for a long time."

Mr. Mondale's advisers are well aware of the front-runner jinx, best illustrated in recent years by former Maine Sen. Edmund Muskie. He started way ahead of the field in 1972 but was overcome by emotion in campaign appearances and fizzled out.

Mr. Mondale's campaign manager, Bob Beckel, said: "We'll be under pressure to do well everywhere, we know that. The front-runner thing is tough."

But the Mondale camp says it is too well prepared to fall into traps. The senator is considered to have the best political organisation of any candidate in the field with broad-based liberal support from trade unions and minority groups.

He is also one of the few candidates who will have little trouble raising up to \$27 million for campaigning.

But his main drawbacks may be a pronounced left-of-centre image, especially in contrast to the middle-of-the-road Mr. Glenn, and a reputation as a lacklustre personality.

Mr. Mondale took over as the leading Democrat when Sen. Edward Kennedy announced he would not run in next year's race. He has a two-to-one advantage over Mr. Glenn in the latest Democratic preference polls.

Tokyo promises to probe alleged 1980 coup plot

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Defence Minister Kazuo Tanikawa Tuesday promised a thorough investigation into allegations that the armed forces plotted to overthrow the government in 1980.

He was commenting on an opposition member of parliament's charge Monday that about 10,000 troops, sailors and airmen were involved in a plan to bomb the prime minister's residence with napalm and occupy parliament.

But Mr. Tanikawa told a press conference it was unthinkable for members of the forces to resort to direct action at a time when, as now, the social and economic situation in Japan was stable.

The accusations were made in parliament by Yanosuke Narasaki, a minority party member

nicknamed "bombshell" because of his frequent disclosures of military secrets. Mr. Narasaki said he had been told of the plot by members of the Defence Forces who had been involved.

Mr. Narasaki alleged that the coup was set for June 1980 but was uncovered by the authorities two months before it was due to be launched by the army's 10th division at Nagoya, Central Japan.

Mr. Narasaki, a member of the small new liberal club-union of Social Democrats Party, quoted his informants as saying that about 120 officers and men received only light punishments and were transferred to less important posts because the authorities feared publicity would harm the defence establishment.

France to release jailed German scientist on bail

PARIS (R) — A nuclear physicist, held in jail in France for four years on spying charges without trial, is to be released on bail following a petition by 500 leading French scientists, judicial sources said Tuesday.

German-born Rolf Dobbertin, 48, worked for 15 years at France's national centre for scientific research, specialising in high-power lasers, before he was arrested in Jan. 1979 and charged with spying for East Germany.

A Paris court ordered his release Monday on condition that he paid 250,000 francs (\$36,800) as a bail bond and reported regularly to the police, the sources said.

The scientists' petition said the accusations contained "lies and affirmations which are pure invention, and show on the part of the magistrates a complete misunderstanding of scientific research, which has been presented

like something out of a bad spy novel."

The signatories included 1966 Nobel Peace Prize winner Albert Kastler.

At the time of his arrest, police said Dobbertin, born in Schwerin, in what is now East Germany, had transmitted details of his work to East German agents.

They said although he was formally charged, he was not tried for a number of reasons.

He had been due to appear before France's state security court which held closed trials on charges such as spying, but the court was abolished by President Francois Mitterrand's Socialist government after it came to power in May 1981.

The other court which could have heard his case was also abolished, thus transferring jurisdiction for the case to the Paris assize court, they said.

'Nuclear freeze' idea overlooks history of Soviet arms buildup

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. air force secretary Verne Orr said that although the nuclear freeze idea was attractive, it overlooked the 20-year history of Soviet arms buildup.

He charged the Soviet Union with being a fundamentally duplicitous negotiating partner, adding that effective arms reductions required some balance between the two parties.

Defending President Reagan's proposed five-year \$1,600 billion military buildup, Mr. Orr said: "Restoring the military capability of the nation is the most positive step that can be taken toward meaningful arms reduction because it will restore this balance."

"The freeze movement could undermine the basis of our national security," he told the American Legion's annual conference Monday.

Mr. Orr said he thought most Americans felt that supporting an immediate freeze was the same as opposing nuclear war.

"This perception is wrong... the real danger of the 'freeze' now proposed is that the American public is being led into thinking there is an easy road to arms control," he said.

"The proposal's simplicity is attractive but overlooks the months and years of required negotiations the past 20-year history of Soviet arms buildup and the difficulties in negotiating with a fundamentally duplicitous negotiating partner," he added.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nicaragua included in papal tour

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul II faces a gruelling schedule of 48 appointments in nine days during his forthcoming visit to Central America and the Caribbean, according to a Vatican announcement Tuesday. He will begin his 30,000-kilometre tour on March 2, visiting Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Belize and Haiti before returning on March 10. The inclusion of Nicaragua, a country that has been the scene of a bitter civil war, has caused some Catholic priests to hold ministerial posts there in defiance of the Holy See.

Suspected extremists attack warehouse

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain (R) — Suspected Basque Guerrillas started a fire in a tyre warehouse in northern Spain, Monday night which caused damage estimated at 800 million pesetas (\$6 million), police said Tuesday. A telephone caller told the Basque newspaper Deia that "anti-capitalist autonomous commandos" were responsible. Basque sources said the anarchist group appeared to be linked with the separatist movement ETA (Basque homeland and freedom).

Life terms demanded for Red Brigades

GENOA, Italy (R) — The prosecution has demanded life sentences for 17 members of the Red Brigades at a mass trial here of 21 guerrillas. The defendants in the trial, which opened last month, are charged with six murders in this north Italian port city. Most of the victims were policemen. Among those whose prosecution Pao Macchivallo urged life sentences were Prospero Gallinari, said by other Red Brigade members to have murdered Mr. Moro, and Mario Moretti, a former leading member of the organisation's Rome column.

Tests suggest babies deliberately killed

TORONTO (R) — Medical tests strongly suggest that seven babies were deliberately killed by an overdose of the heart drug digoxin at Toronto's hospital for sick children while a further 21 baby deaths there may have been caused by digoxin overdoses. Ontario's attorney-general said, Roy McMurtry told the provincial assembly that an investigation by the Centre for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, showed the deaths of the 28 babies "are not inconsistent with digoxin overdose." In May, a ward nurse at the hospital was charged with four counts of first-degree murder following a lengthy preliminary hearing into the babies' deaths.

Fishermen find wheel of crashed Learjet

MEDAN, Indonesia (R) — Indonesian authorities have recovered a wheel from a private jet which disappeared 10 days ago carrying a Sri Lankan business tycoon and five other people, a spokesman for the plane's owners said here Tuesday. Fishermen found the wheel on Sunday in the sea 100 kilometres southeast of here along Sumatra's remote coastline, the spokesman said. The 12-seater Learjet belonged to the Upali confectionery, soap and newspaper publishing group. The group's chief, Upali Wijewardene, 44, a cousin of Sri Lanka's President Junius Jayawardene, was on the plane with two other businessmen and three crew.

Paris names militant to head council

PARIS (R) — President Francois Mitterrand has appointed a veteran Socialist militant, currently president of the international league of human rights, to head the French constitutional council for the next nine years. The appointment of Daniel Mayer, 73, was published in the official gazette Monday. Mr. Mayer, a former minister and personal friend of Socialist leader Leon Blum in the 1930s, is the first Socialist to head the council. He replaces Roger Frey, selected by the late President Georges Pompidou.

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